

supply system in early 1959 resulted in a major change in the depot's mission. On 15 February 1959 the Navy transferred responsibility for technical material, including associated personnel and facilities, from Naval Repair Facility cognizance to the NSD. In conformance with this greatly expanded responsibility for material support, the Secretary of the Navy redesignated the depot as the Naval Supply Center, San Diego, on 18 September 1959.

In 1973 the Navy disestablished the Naval Supply Center, Long Beach, making NSC, San Diego, solely responsible for the logistics support of over half of the U.S. Pacific Fleet and other Department of Defense activities throughout Southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, and portions of Nevada—a mission the Naval Supply Center, San Diego, continues to carry out today in accordance with its motto: "Supplies and Support, Ashore and Afloat."

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ROLAND A. BOWLING

San Diego, Calif., Naval Regional Medical Center, 9 December 1914—

Overlooking the city and harbor of San Diego, the NRMHC, formerly Naval Hospital Balboa, commands an inspiring view from its aptly named location on Inspiration Point in Balboa Park where it had its founding in 1914. On 9 December of that year a U.S. Marine Corps field hospital, manned by Navy Medical Department personnel, moved from its primary base on North Island to Balboa Park as part of the Panama-California Exposition.

During World War I the Navy expanded this facility by establishing a War Dispensary in the Park with tents to serve as wards. By the end of the war this War Dispensary had a bed capacity of over 800. On 20 May 1919 Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels changed the name of the facility to Naval Hospital.

In a move to encourage the Navy to increase its presence in San Diego, local Congressman William Kettner offered, in the name of the city, to donate the necessary bay and park land for a Navy recruit training center and support facilities if the Navy would transfer its existing center from Goat Island, San Francisco, to San Diego. The Navy agreed. Accordingly, on 3 September 1919, the city of San Diego deeded land to the federal government for the center and 17.35 acres of Inspiration Point in Balboa Park for an expanded Naval Hospital. On 22 August 1922 the initial 250-bed, \$1,103,321 facility of a planned hospital complex was commissioned. In addition, the Red Cross donated a \$47,000 recreation hall.

On 27 February 1926 the city deeded another 5.46 acres to the federal government for a planned annex. In 1928–1929 the Navy completed additional support buildings, and on 16 December 1937 dedicated a new wing that com-

pleted the original Spanish theme plan started in 1922. In July 1940 the city deeded another 32.93 acres of park land, and in May 1941 a final 21.32 acres. With these acquisitions the Navy owned all of Inspiration Point in Balboa Park.

During World War II the hospital grew astronomically from 56 buildings with 1,424 beds in 1941 to 241 buildings with 10,499 beds in 1945 on a total spread of 247 acres. That acreage included 33 acres in the heart of Balboa Park where many of the 1915 and 1935 Exposition buildings were converted to wards and hospital spaces. This wartime expansion supported treatment of approximately 172,000 patients with a peak load of over 12,000 patients on 27 December 1944.

In return for the use of city-owned park property during the war, the Navy paid San Diego \$790,000 in cash and after the war donated surplus military buildings and equipment, which brought in an additional \$106,389. The city used the total to refurbish the badly-deteriorated original 1915 and 1935 Exposition buildings.

With the Korean War, during which the Naval Hospital treated approximately 90,000 patients, came the realization that the United States, in the foreseeable future, could not afford to demobilize almost completely as it had done after World War II. In consonance with that strategic awareness and the resultant retention in peacetime of appreciable military forces, the Naval Hospital continued to improve its facilities. On 15 May 1957 it completed a nine-story, \$7.2 million, 1,000-bed Surgical Building, and on 7 June 1969 a three-story, \$1.4 million outpatient clinic was finished, which was intended primarily to serve the growing numbers of dependents and retired personnel.

On 1 July 1972, as part of a major reorganization of Navy medical facilities, the Secretary of the Navy redesignated the Naval Hospital as the Naval Regional Medical Center (NRMHC). In the same year, San Diego's two congressmen, Representatives Bob Wilson and Lionel Van Deerlin, broached the idea of building a new naval hospital outside Balboa Park. However, modernization of the Balboa Park facility, which would result in the continued use of some existing buildings, appeared to offer the best chance of getting funded by Congress. After years of controversy and litigation among city political leaders, conservationists, and the Navy, Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger, in July 1981, made the final decision to build a new hospital on 39 acres in Florida Canyon, adjacent to the existing NRMHC in Balboa Park. In return for the 39 acres, the Navy deeded acreage it held in Balboa Park, primarily Inspiration Point, to San Diego.

On 3 October 1981 the Navy broke ground on its new \$308 million Medical Center. When completed in 1987, the 760-bed facility will contain state-of-the-art medical technology and computerized information systems for both health care and administration. This will result in improved medical care for the estimated 350,000 authorized active and retired users in the area.

In the fall of 1982 the Navy initiated a realignment of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery to streamline the span of control and enhance military effectiveness throughout the regional medical organizations. This restructuring was designed to allow increased attention to the separate but complementary functions of

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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ROLAND A. BOWLING

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,