

O A K L A N D

A R M Y B A S E

December 8, 1941 - September 30, 1999



A PICTORIAL HISTORY

AND OFFICIAL CLOSURE PROGRAM

A PICTORIAL HISTORY

and Official Closure Program

*In the best traditions of the Army of the United States of America,
we proudly present a pictorial history of Oakland Army Base*



San Francisco Bay drawn by George H. Goddard in 1868.

In 1995, Oakland Army Base was directed to close as a result of the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission report with an approved closure date of September 30, 1999.

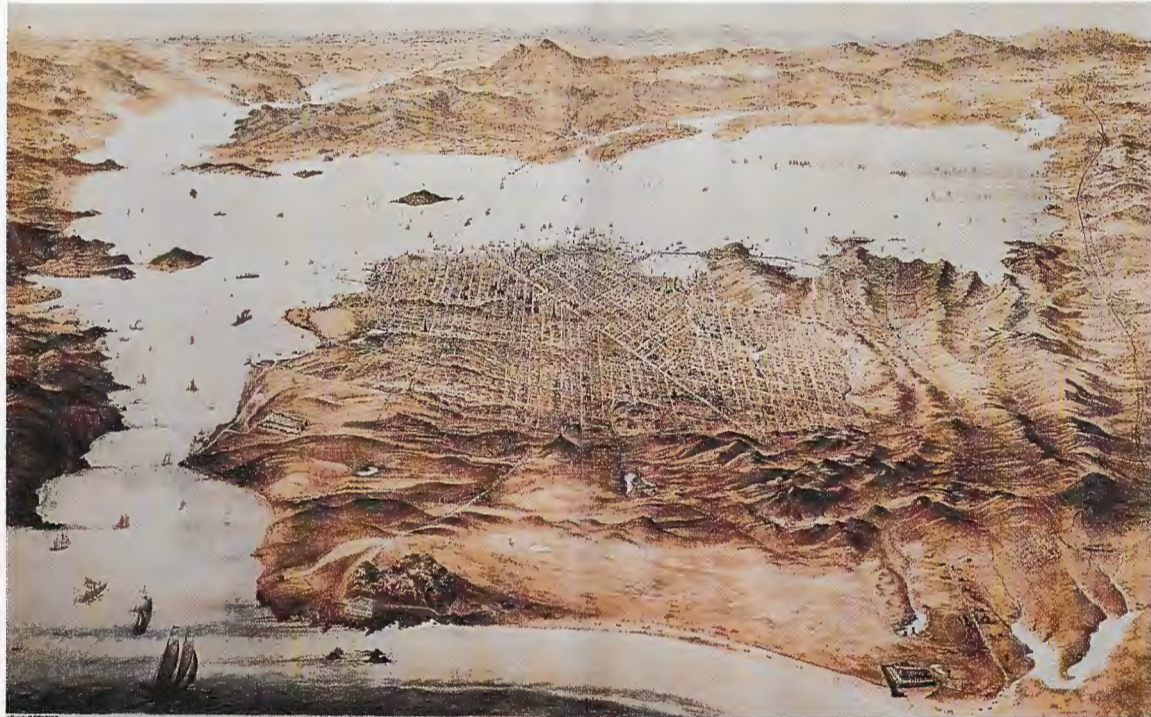
Since that announcement, Oakland Army Base has been working with the Oakland Base Reuse Authority towards a rapid turnover and return of the property to the City of Oakland.

*This book celebrates the thousands of men and women whose efforts took
Oakland Army Base from a time of War to a time of Peace.*

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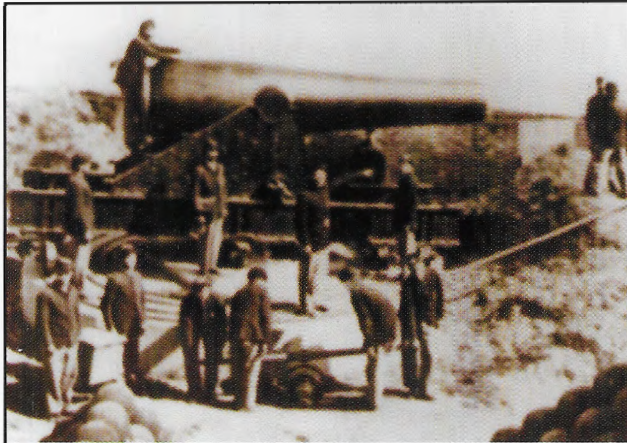
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Our Links in History



Ft Mason's great Rodman Cannon (pictured here) was spirited away after the Civil War, and for years, its whereabouts was unknown. In the 1990's, an amateur historian recognized it at an eastern military base, and arranged for its return to Ft Mason.



California was annexed by the United States after war with Mexico in 1848.

In 1848, gold was discovered in California. Over 40,000 people sailed into San Francisco Bay in the first eight months of 1849. Thousands more came in the next ten years, and squatters' tents went up on undeveloped land throughout San Francisco.

Some squatted on land that had been set aside for future military requirements by President Millard Fillmore in 1850. Strategically located, the sight was crucial to preserving Union interests in California. Confederate sympathizers and ships might divert men, supplies and especially, gold, to the Southern cause.

The squatters were evicted from that land in 1863, as Civil War raged in eastern towns like Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

In 1883, just twenty years after President Abraham Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address, (right), the land was dedicated as Fort Mason.

A Short Mystery Story:

A Union ironclad ship was brought into San Francisco Bay where it stealthily patrolled the Bay and Mare Island Strait. No one knows what happened to it, but its last known location was in the Oakland Harbor.

The Gettysburg Address

Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great Civil War, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But in a larger sense we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow, this ground. The brave men living and dead who struggled here have consecrated it far above our power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us. That from these honored dead we take increased devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the Earth.

Abraham Lincoln, 1863

SAN FRANCISCO PORT OF EMBARKATION

Fort Mason's vital location made it a key player in expanding United States interests - both military and commercial - in the Pacific. World War I necessarily focused attention on Atlantic-based facilities. Fort Mason concentrated on expansion during 1911-1916, and though they didn't know it, prepared for the next chapter in our history.

Fort Mason was linked by ferry with Fort McDowell, a personnel facility seven miles away on Angel Island. Prior to 1940, these two facilities moved 20,000 troops per year.

Commissioned in 1932, the San Francisco Port of Embarkation included Ft Mason and Ft McDowell, and despite their tandem success, the advent of war in Europe in 1939, signaled another expansion.

On January 26, 1941, the first land was acquired on a partially developed 276-acre site known as the Oakland Outer Harbor; and within a week, the Army established operations on what would later be commissioned as the **Oakland Subport of the San Francisco Port of Embarkation.**

Camp Stoneman in Pittsburg, connected both by rail and the waters of Suisun Bay to San Francisco Bay, was added to the San Francisco Port of Embarkation in 1942. It would move one million men through its gates by the end of the war.

Pictured: Soldiers and Women's Army Corps during the War



Together, Ft Mason, Ft McDowell, Camp Stoneman and Oakland Army Base would create the largest facility on the West Coast, and the second largest in the Nation!



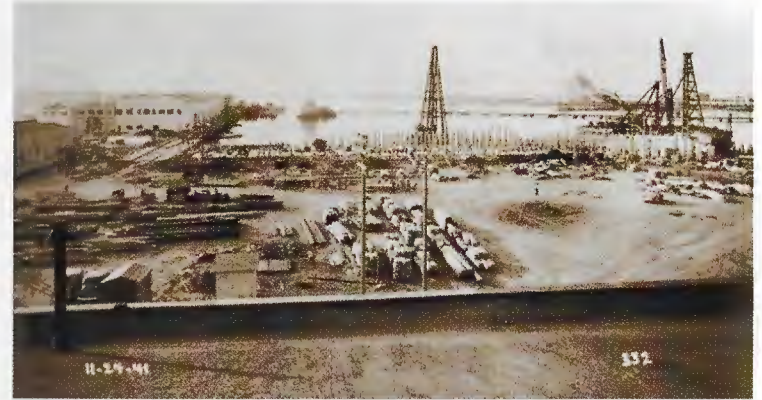
General
Dwight D.
Eisenhower

Construction of Oakland Army Base

Oakland Army Base was established to support the urgent mission of delivering American troops and equipment to the Pacific Front.

On December 8, 1941, the day after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor Hawaii, the Oakland Support of the San Francisco Port of Embarkation was commissioned without ceremony, and with just 25% of its facilities completed. It was a quickly coordinated occasion, and, given the obvious preoccupations of the day, not many of the employees were even aware of the commission.

For sixty years, Oakland Army Base served as the most integrated terminal facility of its time - supporting the entry and return of supplies, equipment, and thousands of soldiers to World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.



Photographs:
The first Administration building, 1941 (left).

Three views of construction, November 1941 (right).

Church service, 1943, (lower left).



Chaplain's Prayer

Father, we know that every structure is built by someone, but you, Lord, are the builder of all things. We know that in our hearts we may plan our course, but you, Lord, determine our steps. Father, we ask your guidance that you may show us - one step at a time - to do the work that you want us to do; that we will listen to what you tell us; to help us to be good, to be honest and to be pure in heart. For this, we pray.

Construction of Oakland Army Base



Construction at the site in Oakland's Outer Harbor began in June of 1941 to augment inadequate cargo handling facilities at Fort Mason.

When the base was finally completed in 1943, after the expenditure of \$35,000,000, over ten million tons of cargo already had moved over its piers. Now, there were 13 deep-draft ship berths, over 175 buildings and structures, 27 miles of railroad track, and millions of square feet of open and covered storage.

The operational portion of the base became known as Oakland Army Base, while the service section was called Camp Knight. This dual personality ceased in 1946, when the entire facility was renamed Oakland Army Base.

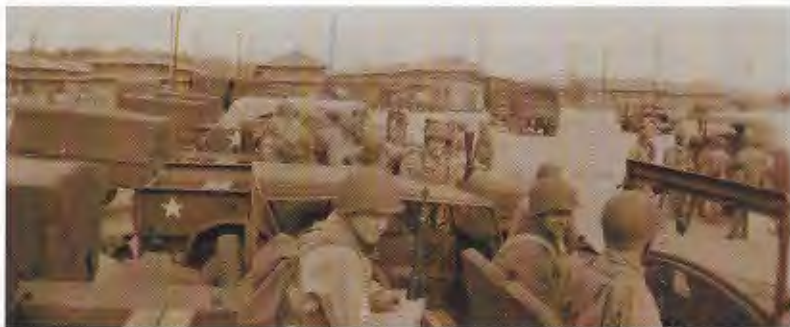
Throughout the years of dramatically changing transportation requirements, the versatile base altered its mission to accommodate the Army's needs. Approximately 87% of the cargo and supplies were delivered by rail. At any given time, 1000 railcars loaded with vital supplies were routed on Oakland Army Base tracks. During World War II, the base served as the largest Army cargo facility for the entire West Coast, moving over ten million tons of cargo on its rails and from its piers.

Photographs are courtesy of Public Affairs Office



WORLD WAR II

MIGHT AND MACHINES!



The ability to move millions of troops and tons of equipment *fast* is the key to success.

In American military strategy, then as now, this capability is central in logistic effectiveness.

Although the San Francisco Port of Embarkation was dismantled in 1947, its legacy is secure in American history.



The scope of the national involvement in World War II was staggering: 12,000,000 men and women were in uniform.

Production to supply the war effort was 44% of the Gross National Product.

Photographs (*top, center and lower-left*) are from the albums of Cpl. Joe Thompson. LT Gen George Patton, Maj Gen Middleton and BM2/c Leonard Roguski, 1943 (*top center photo*)



OAKLAND ARMY BASE WAR SUPPORT STATISTICS:

4000 FREIGHTERS AND
25 MILLION TONS OF CARGO

OR

1/2 OF ALL ARMY CARGO!

2 MILLION TROOPS ON
800 TROOP SHIPS

OR

2/3rds OF ALL PACIFIC TROOPS!



WORLD WAR II

MIND AND MORALE!

If transporting men and might is crucial to winning wars, maintaining morale is its cousin. American forces defeat foes with heart as well as might - this is the focus of Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

During World War II, USO shows, such as the Jack Benny troop pictured, relieved some wartime stress, and gave laughter a chance.

In this same vein, Community and Family Activities programs offered opportunities for mental and spiritual strength. Oakland Army Base continued this tradition until its last months.



Jack Benny and two autograph hounds on Kwajaline Island September 1944 (left).

"Hollywood girls" Carol Landis, June Bruner and Martha Tildon (below).



Oakland Army Base Employees in 1941 (right), jubilant at the arrival of the first trainload of supplies.

Soldier's memento to his wife of tiny wooden shoes from Camp Stoneman 1944.



America was working - and working for a common cause.

For the most part, they'd been teenagers in the Great Depression. Their youth was spent in poverty; they'd seen bread lines, soup kitchens, and wore handmade clothes. But they were not a generation without *hope!*

Hope was part of the American spirit. They valued economy, honesty, family, personal responsibility, and they worked long hours without complaint.

There was a sense of purpose; there was a greater connection between all Americans - the bond of *Freedom!*

Approximately, 19,000,000 more people were working than there had been five years earlier during the Great Depression. Thirty-five percent of the workers were women.

It was a generation of towering achievement: a legacy of sacrifice - and just plain hard work!

These traditions of might, morale and hard work will be the legacy of Oakland Army Base.



Oakland Army Base Employees during the war (left).

KOREAN WAR

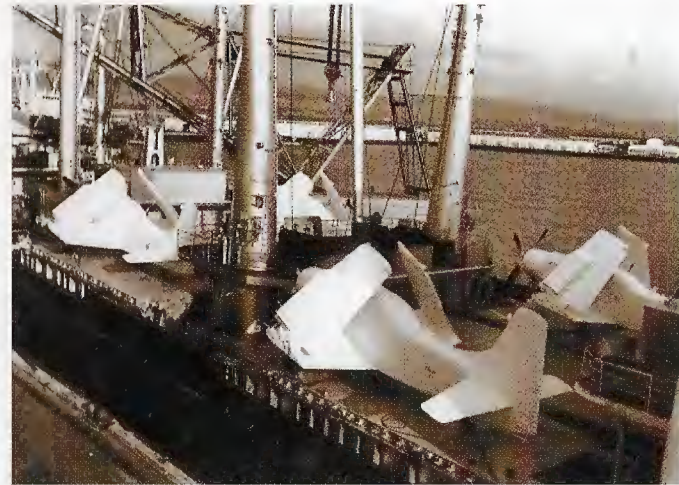
Oakland Army Base responds to a new crisis.

Hostilities in Korea saw Oakland Army Base again as the busiest ocean terminal on the Pacific Coast, handling most of the cargo sent to U.S. forces in Korea.

In an exemplary show of cooperation, Oakland Army Base military and civilian personnel responded to a new call to support our troops working night and day.

Within two months, cargo loading rose by a whopping 500%, and remained at that level until the armistice agreement was signed in 1953.

During the three active years of the Korean War, Oakland Army Base shipped 7.2 million tons of cargo overseas.



In the post-Korean war period, drastic cutbacks occurred in cargo transportation, but the installation saw an increase in action as other activities moved to the base, including:

**Pacific Transportation Terminal Command,
Military Traffic Management Agency, and
Defense Traffic Management Service**



At the end of World War II, the mission of Oakland Army Base was refocused as a war surplus materials distribution point.



KOREAN WAR

A war-weary public prepared, in disbelief, for what they feared was World War III. A new generation of men and women readied themselves, and the country braced for war on a new front.

There seemed to be no job Oakland Army Base couldn't do, and its location ensured role-changing throughout the mid-20th century.

Unlike Fort Mason, Camp Stoneman and Fort McDowell, Oakland Army Base survived. As the century closes, it remains the only active part of the original San Francisco Port of Embarkation.



Oakland Army Base was the port of entry for the remains of United States war dead repatriated from temporary burials in the Pacific. From October, 1947, until the mid-1970's, a temporary morgue was set-up when needed in the gymnasium. Over 50,000 remains were brought home through the base.



Again, our boys were heading to battle and again, families waited.



OAKLAND ARMY BASE STAFFS



clockwise from top left:

COMMAND GROUP
 COUNSELING OFFICE
 COMMUNITY and
 FAMILY ACTIVITIES
 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
 ENGINEERING
 FAMILY SUPPORT
 SECURITY



OAKLAND ARMY BASE STAFFS



*Clockwise
from top left:*

- CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
- FITNESS
- JACOBS HALL
- LOGISTICS
- ARTS & CRAFTS
- AUTO CRAFTS

OAKLAND ARMY BASE TENANT COMMANDS

Deployment Support Command



Reading left to right from top:
Command Group
Resource Management
Acquisitions
Internal Review
Human Resources
Equal Employment Office
Judge Advocate Group
Information Management
Public Affairs



OAKLAND ARMY BASE TENANT COMMANDS

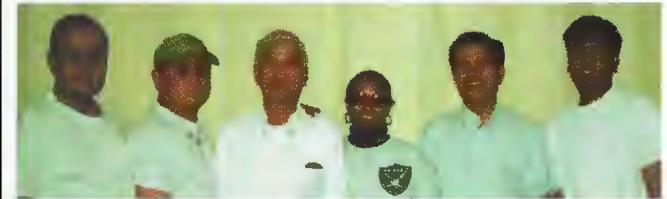
Commissary Staff



AAFES Staff



Gateway Club Staff



21st Support Brigade



3rd Battalion, 21st Support Brigade





In Deep Salute



The Rifleman
Staff Sgt. Raul Garcia, Sr., retired, who fought in the Battle of the Bulge, 84th Infantry Division - one of the Rail Splitters - sent us this salute to the Riflemen in the Army:

"The Rifleman fights without promise of either reward or relief. Behind every river there's another hill, and behind that hill, another river. After weeks or months in the line, only a wound can offer him the comfort of safety, shelter and a bed. Those who are left, fight on; evading death, but knowing with each day they have exhausted one more chance for survival. Sooner or later, unless victory comes, this chase must end on the litter, or in the grave."

World War II

Pfc. Samuel A. Hunter, Sr., entered the Army, January 1945, just as the war ended. He and the fellows traveling with him shared mixed emotions: they wanted to do their part to be victorious! But to get to the war zone, he would travel the dangerous Ledo Road, which was rough terrain. Soldiers were losing their lives en route to the battlefields. His division, the 3978th Quarterman Trucking Company, transported soldiers from the United States and its allies, to and from the Railroad Hub in Calcutta. They processed through the China-Burma-India Theatre from various conflict areas. Therefore, his mission though not combat, was an integrally supportive role, as he helped the soldiers get home. Ah Peace! It was over, and the soldiers were going home!

World War II

Major Ferdinand Brislawn, retired, was an accountant when the call came for people with those skills to enter military service. Fred was stunned when his boss offered his name as a candidate, but chagrined to find himself a corporal without having gone to bootcamp; and later, an officer, without having gone to Officer Training School. He served at Karachi, India from 1942-1946. He studied Russian, and philosophy, and got his doctorate degree in Philosophy from Purdue in 1951.

True Stories from Soldiers and Families



Story of a Railroadman

Nicholas Moore, who retired from Southern Pacific Railroad, was a foreman during World War II. Railroadmen were given "priority" status because their specialized skills were vital to the war effort. Overnight, it seemed, their workforce doubled - and so did their days. Sixteen-hour days were not unusual. Their job was to transport cargo and supplies to military installations for shipment overseas.

"It was something else," he says now, "miles of railroad cars back to back full of ammunition and supplies. We had to start sending the trains to Sacramento and the Delta to relieve the gridlock on the base."

World War II

Private Lafayette E. Oliver recounts that he enlisted at 18, and World War II began six months later. He served in the Pacific theatre. He came home four years later - and four years older.

So many spent their youth on the front.



VIETNAM WAR

A dozen years after the Korean War ended - as the base was trimming-down its personnel, releasing freight, cargo-handling equipment and surplus pier facilities - an upsurge began in supplying troops to Southeast Asia. The employee population at Oakland Army Base increased by 58% to accomplish their mission of shipping equipment, supplies and soldiers to Vietnam. The installation was teeming with activity.



"Don't call it a conflict! It was the longest war we were ever involved in!"

quote from a Vietnam War veteran

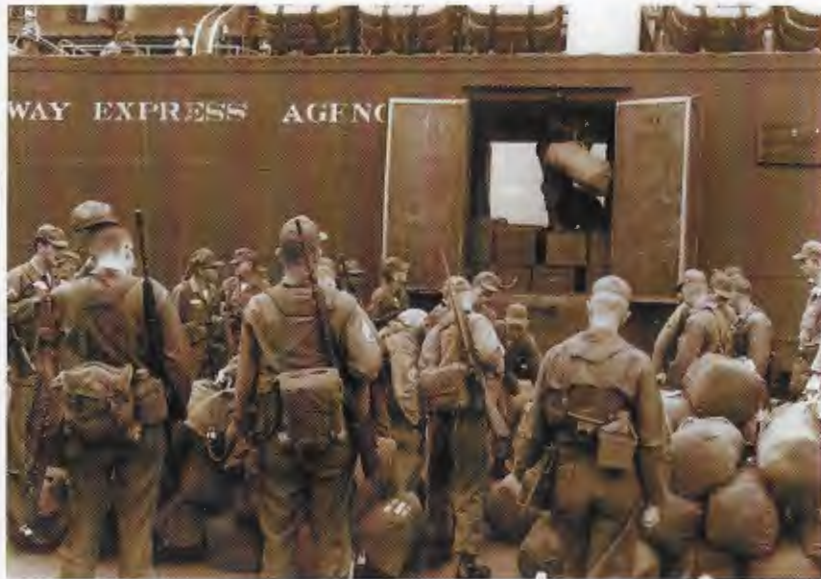


In support of the Vietnam War, Oakland Army Base again became the home of the largest military complex in the world.

One long-time employee recalled that 20,000 troops were processed every day - coming or going.



VIETNAM WAR



Soldiers embarking from Oakland Army Base



The last shipment of soldiers by sea was in 1966. After that, troops were air-lifted on commercial and military transport. However, cargo continued to be dispersed overseas twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week - by approximately nine hundred dedicated employees.

During the Vietnam phase-down, the amount of cargo moving through Oakland Army Base was significantly reduced, and the use of commercial ocean terminal facilities increased.



Colors at Oakland Army Base during the Vietnam War

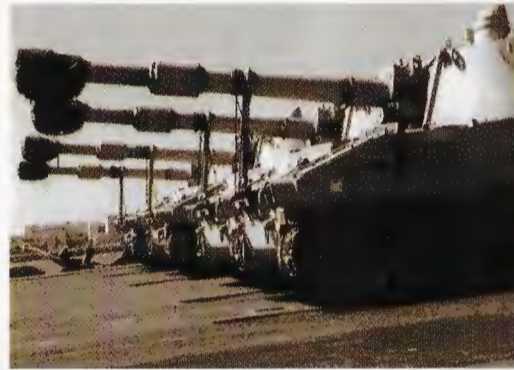
In the 1970's, we thought the balance of power was with the Soviet Union. But we were wrong! On the peninsula south of San Francisco, technological innovations happening in the sleepy, orchard-rich Santa Clara Valley - soon to be renamed the Silicon Valley because of the silicon chip used in microprocessors - was about to change all that:

High tech warfare was about to shift gears!

DESERT STORM

Twenty years after Vietnam, Oakland Army Base was ready to support our troops in the 1990's.

Things had changed a lot, however. The invention of the computer chip made warfare a whole new game. In Vietnam, 30% of the missiles fired had hit their mark, by Desert Storm, it was 80%.



It was the microprocessor which directed the flight of the F117 Stealth aircraft. Indeed, it was the computer which helped design these advancements in air warfare. Tested in the war with Iraq during Operation Desert Storm, this new technology sent shockwaves throughout the world. These advancements were far ahead of anything else in the world, and changed the way modern warfare would be fought.

Radar was obsolete -

The Cold War was over!

DESERT STORM

Supporting these advances was the proud, old work horse, Oakland Army Base.

Troops, logistical and medical supplies, and tons of other cargo were delivered to the front.

Oakland Army Base was a link between military installations and the commercial transportation industry. It continued this liaison through the defensive maneuvering of Operation Desert Shield, and the offensive attacks of Desert Storm.



Following the end of the Cold War, Army drawdowns and reassignments gradually reduced Oakland Army Base's force to fewer than 500 professionals from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Department of the Army civilian workforce.

To the end, Oakland Army Base did its share.



End of an Era

In 1995, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission approved a closure date of September 30, 1999, signalling the final chapter for Oakland Army Base.

*Day is Done,
Gone the Sun,
From the Lake,
From the Hills,
From the Sky.
All is Well,
Safely Rest.
God is Nigh.*

*Thanks and Praise
For our Day
'Neath the Sun,
'Neath the Stars,
'Neath the Sky.
As we Go
This we Know,
God is Nigh.*



*Fading Light
Dims the Sight,
And a Star
Gems the Sky
Gleaming
Bright.
From Afar,
Drawing Nigh,
Falls the Night.*

*Then, Good Night,
Peaceful Night,
Till the Light
of the Dawn
Shineth Bright.
God is Near,
Do Not Fear,
Friends
Good Night.*

A Tribute To Those Who Died

A selection of verses from taps

OAKLAND ARMY BASE STAFFS

(Listed as they appear in the group staff photographs)

Command Group

Front Row:

Maj. Tim Atkinson
Col. Susan Halter
Bob Thomas

Second Row:

Jean Swift
Lynn Kriegbaum
Mildred Scott-Hilliard

Back Row:

Lt. Rick Robins
Tom Galvin
Bill Carey

Jacobs Hall

Front Row:

Ellen Oseguera
Sue Maisonet
Louis Green
Shirley Buckman
Yondia Adjuder

Back Row:

Coynell West
Paula Langston
Regina O' Guinn
Willie French
Laura Bounthon
Clydette Taylor
Lynn Petty

Community and Family Activities

Front Row:

Gloria Thomas
Margarita Mejia
David Kerlin
Norma Alcober

Second Row:

Dezanna Russell
Frank Johns
Roslyn Johnson

Back Row:

David Choi
Raul Garcia
John Lee

Family Support

Dezanna Russell
Frank Johns
Rozlyn Johnson
Margarita Mejia

Counseling Office

Joanmarie von Richthofen

Financial Management

Gloria Thomas
David Choi
Jenny Ruiz
John Lee
Norma Alcober
Jesse Bascos

Child Development Center

Front Row:

Jerome Jones
Christine Bell

Second Row:

Marcelino Villanueva
Antoinette Gaffney
Silvia Hardee
Arlene Timbol

Sandra Young
Frank Johns

Back Row:

Sheree Oliver
LaTrena Robinson
Angela Catlett
Johnny Brown
LeQuita Carroll

Engineers

Front Row:

George Hetrick
Norma Whitney
Dee Goldberg
Leo Ortiz
Bob Zaleski
Leon Tynes

Second Row:

Calvin Jones
Linda Butler
Rick Andrews
Bruce Haymaker
Casey Ross
Jeannie Clements

Back Row:

Robert Kramp
George Ostrovsky
Steve Leite
Ray Romano

Logistics

Front Row:

Alton George
Roger Snyder
Dulce Guevaca
Jennifer Mason
Shirley Ancheta
Precy Buan
Sidney Wright

Second Row:

Ernie Benjamin
Ricky Logan
Randy Mendoza
Joe Paranal
Nanette Jackson
Dick Wong
Raul Mendoza

Back Row:

James Powell
Barbara Ligon
Monroe King
John Medeiros
Leroy Dunn
Carleen Moore

Security

Front Row:

Glenn Mariano
Elizabetha Hampton
Gail Goudeau
Ralph Brown

Second Row:

Amando Quito
Doug Akaka
Fred Bianchi
Michael Goudeau

Richard Gourdine
Ron Ray
Samuel Richardson
Sgt. 1st Class. Eddie Williams

Fitness

Peter Adjuder

Raul Garcia
Bart Porter
Richard Robinson
John Funes

Auto Crafts

Mariano Morgado
Romeo Sirate
Raul Garcia

Arts and Crafts

Emily Roguski
Dale Allen
Marva Donaldson

OAKLAND ARMY BASE TENANT COMMANDS

(Listed as they appear in the tenant photographs)

Deployment Support Command

Command Group

Andrea Mc Nall
Mary Williams

Resource Management

Front Row:
Ed Garces
Merrie Jo Mc Murray
Kristine Chiu
Bob Krall
Barbara Scott
Pat Moody
Arabella Malonzo

Back Row:
Jerry Escosa
Ron Feirtag
Yono Mork
Annie Parmis
Elaine De Prosse
Robert Kong
Ceasar Martinez
Michael Schilter

Acquisitions

Sally Treat
Ann Etherington

Office of Internal Review

Kiyomi Rankin
Terry Ginocchio

Human Resources

Front Row:
Emma Roberts
Maria Gutsfeld
Sgt. 1st Class Linda Evans
Penny Yee
Sylvia Abolencia
Donna Webster

Back Row:
Loretta Mootry
Dolores Symmons
Harold Villa
Sgt. Chanley Pickard
Benjamina Ballesteros
Jamie Harris
Birdo O' Neal
Leon Waugh

Equal Employment

Opportunity
Annie Crayton

Judge Advocate Group

Tim Dornan
Cpt. Dean Lloyd
Spc. Robert Triplett
Al Rosen

Information Management

Front Row:
Horst Gutsfeld
Dave Charamuga
Bruce Burke
Glenda Ruth
Michael Hawthorne
Bill Dea

Back Row:
Joel Flood
Gary Cline
Pat Grandy
Terry Beardsley
Sharon Thomas
Ruby Boyd
Frank Braehmer
Felix Barnes
Jo-Helen Crookshank
Sharon Harris
Robert Cline
Donna Daniels-Spriggs

Public Affairs Office

David Kashimba

Mailroom (not pictured)

Charles Davis
Jeff Owen
Tim Leano

Commissary

Front Row:

Shizuko Nillo, Natividad (Natty) Joson, Pat Howard,
Romeo Binaoro, Jody Daniels, Helen Rodillas,
Frank Rodillas, Roslyn M. Ivanoff, Tereso Pespitro,
Betty Poole.

Second Row:

Chung Jong Ki, Charles R. Hodge, Jr., Bob Huntoon,
Mark Perkins, Lee Simpson, Elmer Bielma, William Terry,
Edward Navarrete

Back Row:

Oscar Hatter, Ann Holleman, Warren Herrion, Erica Keller,
Tanisha Braggs, Roland Machado, Elizabeth Welch,
June Felker, Gloria Martin

AAFES

(gas station)

Melanie LeBlue
Joy Hall
Jannelle Alexander
Alisha White

Gateway Club

Jesus dela Cruz
Virgilio Llave, jr.
Artemio Sarmiento
Mary Charles
Terry Villian
Leonilo Pingul

21st Support Brigade

Front Row: Cpt. Desautel, Cpt. Rogney, Sgt. 1st Class Jackson,
Sgt. 1st Class Patton, Lt. Witt, Sgt. 1st Class Edmundson

Back Row: Cpt. Spray, Sgt. 1st Class Wright, Ms. Gray,
Col. Jones, CSM Hull, Lt. Flanagan, Lt. Beley, Lt. Pizarro

3rd Battalion, 21st Support Brigade

Front Row: Sgt. 1st Class Yelverton, MSG Narvaiz,
Sgt. 1st Class Bennett, Sgt. 1st Class Clark

Back Row: Maj Yates, Lt. Hastey, Cpt. Garro, Sgt. 1st Class Roynon

