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# UNITED STATES NAVY AND MARINE CORPS BASES, DOMESTIC

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## **TANAGA, ALASKA, NAVAL AUXILIARY AIR FACILITY, 1943-1945**

Tanaga (51°47'N., 178°00'W.) is one of the western Andreanof Islands of the Aleutians. Only fifty-one miles west of NOB Adak, Tanaga began operating as an emergency landing field in July 1943. Eight months later it became an auxiliary air facility servicing air and surface patrol craft. It also functioned as a secondary aerological station. In October 1945 the base was disestablished.

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**TERMINAL ISLAND, CALIF., NAVAL AIR STATION.** *See* San Pedro, Calif., Terminal Island, Naval Air Station.

## **TIBURON, CALIF., NAVAL NET DEPOT, 1904-**

When ships are inbound from the Pacific and destined for sites on San Francisco Bay, the port side vista within the Golden Gate is overwhelmed by the massive headlands of Marin, a California county that held in turn the defensive works of Spain, Mexico, and the United States. North of Angel Island and three-quarters of a mile across Raccoon Straits lies the easternmost face of rugged Tiburon Peninsula whose northern half, between Bluff Point and Pont Chauncey, was the site of several U.S. Navy installations in the first six decades of the twentieth century.

Under the flag of Spain, almost the entire area of present-day Marin County was granted Mission Dolores (San Francisco) to establish a branch mission, while the Spanish throne retained Tiburon Peninsula and two other wilderness areas as defensive buffers against Russia and England. Spain used the mission

priests and wilderness space as frontiersmen and barrier; Mexico, independent after 1821, substituted the farm-dweller rancher and his family. It was in this period under Mexico that the area was first called *Punta de Tiburon* (Shark's Point).

Alta California, which went through the stages of the Bear Flag Revolt, the U.S. War with Mexico, and military occupation, was acquired as part of the territory Mexico ceded to the United States in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, 2 February 1848, which ended the Mexican-American War. Mexican land grants, incidentally, created interesting legal history. A descendent of the original titleholder to Tiburon in 1877 sold a portion of its East Shore to William C. Lynde and Howard M. Hough, who developed one of the largest Pacific Coast cod-fisheries during the next quarter of a century. In 1904 the firm was merged with the Union Fish Company, and the plant abandoned its operations and moved to Sausalito.

This site along the eastern shore of Tiburon Peninsula attracted the attention of the Navy because it had water deep enough to wharf battleships. It was a site further protected from attack via the Pacific Ocean by the massive land forms and hills of Marin County, was on a bay large enough to hold all the navies of the world, and was only seventeen miles by water from Mare Island Navy Yard. Last, the shore area was covered by Army forts Yates, Rathbone, McIndoe, and O'Rorke.

The United States purchased the property from Lynde and Hough on 30 June 1904 for \$80,000 and in 1909 opened the Navy Coaling Station, Tiburon, with its vast open U-shaped piers, three movable platforms with coal chutes, and supporting buildings. The Great White Fleet coaled there in that same year, and during the 1914 crisis with Mexico, Assistant Secretary Franklin D. Roosevelt visited the station on a tour of the West Coast. Following the Five Power Naval Disarmament Treaty signed in Washington in 1922, the Navy either converted its older battleships from coal to oil or, after 1931, struck them from the Navy List, demilitarized them, or used them as target ships. Oil phased out coal throughout the Navy, stringest economy in the armed forces became a watchword, and the Hoover administration closed the Navy Coaling Station, Tiburon, during the depression year 1931.

The doors were not long locked, however, for the old site was used by the California Nautical School (now California Maritime Academy, Vallejo) in 1931. The school graduated its first class of cadets in 1933 as officers in the Merchant Marine and continued operations until 1940, when a new war in Europe returned the site to active service and forced it to move.

The new installation commissioned on 1 August 1940 was the Tiburon Naval Net Depot. Not only were nets and booms made here, but thousands of men were trained to handle and maintain them for the Pacific war. The largest single job was a six-thousand-ton, seven-mile net made and installed across the entrance to San Francisco Bay stretching from Sausalito to the San Francisco Marina which was 85 percent complete by 7 December 1941.

In 1932 an adjacent nine acres was added to the depot with the purchase of the John Roebling's Sons Company holdings. This firm had reeled wires for the main cables of the Gold Gate Bridge, and stored, transferred, and barged their materials from what was now an ideal naval site. With all this activity, housing had to be built for personnel and trainees. Expansion continued in 1942 on an additional nineteen-acre site at Paradise Cove; this was the new Floating Drydock Training Center Annex, Tiburon, which was begun on 19 November 1942 and was considered "usably complete" on 15 January 1943. Several thousand officers and men were trained here for overseas ship repair activity in the Far Pacific before it was disestablished in 1944.

After World War II the depot continued in use as a training center for the Navy and U.S. allies, but it was closed as the Navy retrenched for peacetime. Recommissioned for the Korean War, it served as the net supply and repair depot for the entire Pacific. With the return of peace the depot was closed again in March 1958 and remained in caretaker status until 1964.

The Tiburon Marine Laboratory of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife moved onto the site in 1961, followed by the Marine Minerals Technology Center of the Bureau of Mines in 1963. These agencies became part of the newly established National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration of the Department of Commerce on 4 October 1970. From the late 1950s to 1962 the Naval Reserve Electronics Facility was located at the site and Mare Island Shipyard maintained its electronics facility on the south wharf. Other sections of the site became surplus property and are now sites for two county parks. The former Floating Dry Dock Training Center Annex is now Paradise Beach County Park and that part of the base west of Paradise Drive became Tiburon Uplands Nature Reserve. All that is left of the Navy's presence is a three-acre site used for instrument testing.

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#### TILLAMOOK, ORE., NAVAL AIR STATION (LTA), 1942-1947

Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the Chief of Naval Operations directed the establishment of a lighter-than-air program in the Puget Sound area,