



# **The Society of American Military Engineers and the Jacksonville Post**

## **Centennial Celebration 1920-2020**



# Military Engineers and World War I



**When the United States joined World War I, military engineers numbered 256 officers and 2,228 soldiers. At the end of the war, there were 10,886 officers and 292,300 soldiers.**





# The Birth of the Society of American Military Engineers



Join the New Society of American Military Engineers and  
Subscribe to the New Journal of the Society—

## The Military Engineer

A LIVE PERIODICAL DEVOTED TO THE ENGINEER'S PART IN NATIONAL DEFENSE

THE FIRST JOURNAL OF THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS. SOME eleven years ago the Officers of the Corps of Engineers began the publication of a professional journal large scale that is characteristic of these times would be impossible. It is therefore a patriotic duty of all professional engineers, even more than in the case of our officers at large, to

**“Its objects are, in brief, to promote solidarity and co-operation between engineers in civil and military life, to disseminate technical knowledge bearing upon progress in the art of war and the application of engineering science thereto, and to preserve and maintain the best standards and traditions of the profession, all in the interests of patriotism and national security.”**

### —The Military Engineer, January 1920

and laborers drawn from civil life. At the date of the Armistice our engineer force had been expanded to some 11,000 officers and 285,000 men, and was steadily increasing. Even this great force could not meet all the demands for the services of engineers.

The patriotic interest in national defense which is now so apparent amongst our citizens of all classes, must be fully capitalized before it can be of any use to us again in the speculative state of pre-war days.

As an important means to this worthy end, we are establishing at this time a Society of American Military Engineers.



**First SAME National President,  
Maj. Gen. William Black, USA,  
Chief of Engineers**



# Society of American Military Engineers History Highlights



## Brigadier General Charles G. Dawes, USA

- US Army Brigadier General in WWI
- Developed the Dawes Plan for World War I reparations; received the Nobel Peace Prize
- **Vice President of the United States under President Calvin Coolidge 1925 - 1929**
- **SAME National President 1928**
- US Ambassador to United Kingdom
- Wrote the music in 1911 for 1958 No. 1 pop song “It’s All in the Game”





# Society of American Military Engineers History Highlights



## Ethel H. Bailey

- Mechanical Engineer
- Inspector of aircraft engines during WWI
- **Joined SAME in 1926 as first female member**
- During WWII worked at the Signal Corps Radar Laboratory
- Organized US Navy radar requirements with Raytheon Manufacturing Company
- Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology





# Society of American Military Engineers History Highlights



“I have been a member of this Society since its inception. Its span of years has seen the most remarkable rate of development of civilization the world has ever witnessed. This accomplishment has synchronized with some of the most acute perils the human race has ever known and overcome. In both categories the engineer has distinguished himself and his profession. Not only in what he has done but in what he has prevented from being done, he has established himself as one of the basic pillars of modern society. **I have belonged to many distinguished groups but none in which I have a greater sense of honor than in the Society of American Military Engineers.**”

- General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, 1956





# Society of American Military Engineers Jacksonville Post



**The Jacksonville Post was one of the original 16 chartered in 1920!**

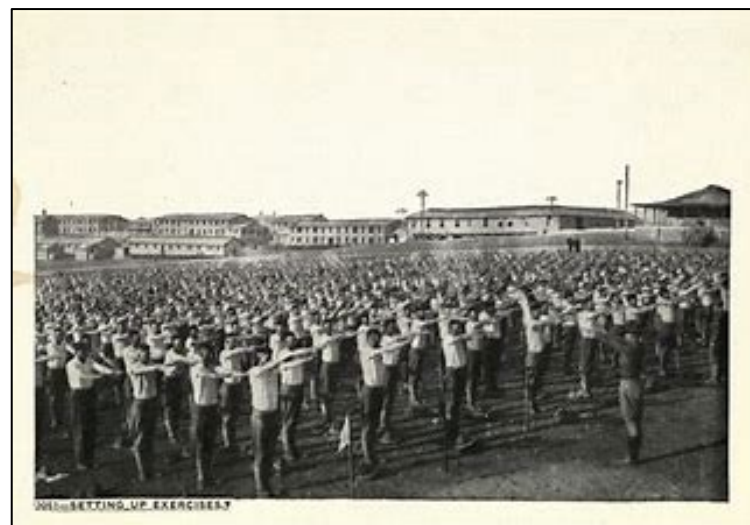
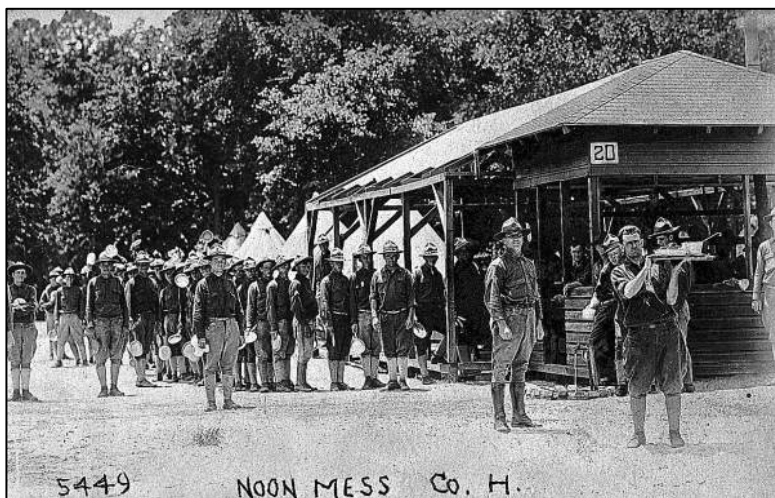
**“Local posts, in bringing our members into close personal touch with each other, are believed to be essential to the realization of our fullest usefulness.”**

**- The Military Engineer, July-August 1920**



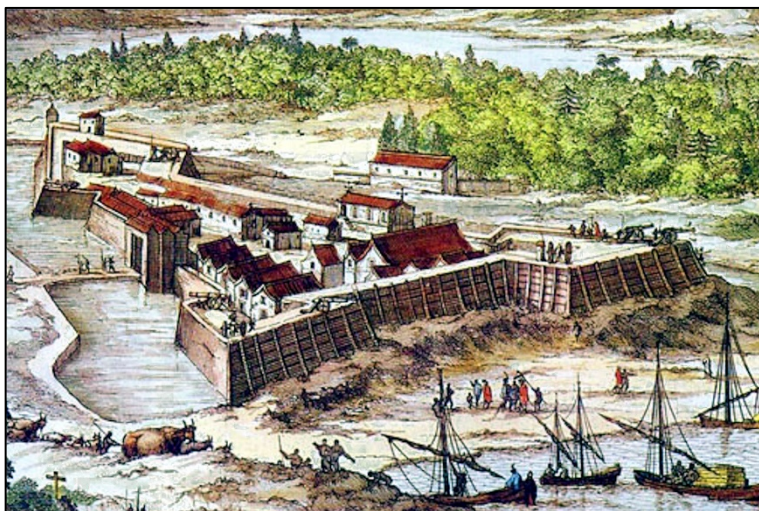
## Camp Joseph E. Johnston

- Acquired in 1907 by Florida National Guard; during World War I, it served as an Army training camp for quartermasters
- Renamed Camp J. Clifford R. Foster in 1928
- In 1939 the Florida National Guard acquired Camp Blanding and Camp Foster became Naval Air Station Jacksonville



# First Coast Forts

- Fort Caroline/Fort San Mateo, French 1560s
- Castillo de San Marcos, Spanish 1672
- Fort Matanzas, Spanish 1742
- Fort Clinch 1847





# Growing Military Presence in Jacksonville



## Army

- Camp Joseph E. Johnston
- Camp J. Clifford R. Foster
- Camp Blanding
- USACE Jacksonville District

## Navy

- NAS Jacksonville
- NS Mayport
- NSB Kings Bay
- NAS Cecil Field
- **NAS Lee Field**
- Naval Outlying Field Whitehouse
- Pincastle Bombing Range
- **Yellow Water Weapons Storage Facility**

## Marines

- Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island

## Air Force

- Jacksonville Air National Guard Base at Jacksonville International Airport
- Florida Air National Guard 202nd RED HORSE Squadron Compound at Camp Blanding

## Coast Guard

- United States Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville



# Infrastructure Growth in Jacksonville



**1920 - Population: 91,558**

**1921 - St. Johns River/Acosta Bridge opens**

**1928 - Gator Bowl Stadium built**

**1941 - Main Street Bridge opens**

**1953 - Mathews Bridge opens**

**1962 - Civic Auditorium opens**

**1963 - Shands Bridge opens**

**1963 Jacksonville Port Authority created**

**1967 - Hart Bridge opens**

**1968 - Consolidation of City and County**

**1970 - Buckman Bridge opens**

**1989 - Jacksonville Skyway opens**

**1989 - Dames Point Bridge opens**

**1993 - River City Renaissance**

**1995 - Jacksonville Municipal Stadium opens**

**2000 - Better Jacksonville Plan**

**2003 - Jaxport Cruise Terminal opens**

**2005 - Super Bowl XXXIX**

**2020 - Population: 949,611**



# First Coast USN Installations



## Naval Air Station Jacksonville

- Commissioned October 15, 1940, on previous site of Camp J. Clifford R. Foster
- With entry into WWII, three runways, seaplane runways and ramps, overhaul and repair facilities, a hospital and a POW compound were constructed
- By 1949, NAS Jacksonville was the East Coast's aircraft capital with 60 percent of the Fleet's air striking force in the Atlantic area
- The base mission evolved to antisubmarine warfare from the 70s to the 2000s
- The Fleet Readiness Center Southeast also evolved from the original Naval Air Rework Facility Jacksonville



# First Coast USN Installations



## Naval Station Mayport

- Commissioned in December 1942 as Naval Auxiliary Air Station (NAAS) in support of the Atlantic Fleet in WWI I
- USCG took over the base after the war, until it was re-established as a Naval Outlying Field in 1948
- In the early 1950s the basin was dredged, and the runways were extended; it was again designated as a NAAS in 1955
- The carrier USS Franklin D. Roosevelt arrived at its new homeport at Mayport in 1956
- Naval Station Mayport covers 3,409 acres, the third largest Naval facility in CONUS
- It hosts more than 80 tenant commands including 22 naval ships and six helicopter squadrons



# First Coast USN Installations



## Naval Air Station Cecil Field

- Started as outlying field for NAS Jacksonville in June 1941; commissioned as Naval Auxiliary Air Station in February 1943; served as WWII dive-bombing training center
- Re-established as NAS Cecil Field in June 1952 and designated as one of four Master Jet Bases for operation of carrier-based jet aircraft
- Ultimately occupied 19,664 acres, the largest military base in the Jacksonville area
- Identified for closure in 1993 as part of BRAC; decommissioned in 1999; now a civilian, public-use, joint civil-military airfield and industrial park

# First Coast USN Installations

## Pincastle Bombing Range

- 40,587 acres acquired by War Department in the early 1940s for “Lake Bryant Bombing and Gunnery Range”
- Decommissioned after WWII
- USN acquired 5,895 acres in 1950s-1980s
- Only live impact USN range on the East Coast; 20,000 bombs dropped per year



## Naval Outlying Field Whitehouse

- Established in 1940s on 2,500 acres
- Initially used as carrier landing practice field by jets from NAS Cecil Field
- Survived BRAC and continues use by USN and USMC pilots
- One of two outlying fields on the east coast used for day-and-night carrier landings

## Yellow Water Weapons Storage Facility

- Established in 1940s on 11,000 acres
- Navy neither confirmed nor denied storage of nuclear weapons
- Decommissioned in 1999 as part of BRAC; now Jacksonville Equestrian and Aquatic Centers



# First Coast USN Installations

## Naval Air Station Lee Field, Green Cove Springs

- Opened on September 11, 1940 for aviation training
- After WWII downgraded to Naval Auxiliary Air Station Green Cove Springs, as part of NAS Jacksonville
- 13 piers were constructed to house a USN “Mothball Fleet” of 500 vessels
- Decommissioned in 1963 and deeded to city; annexed in 1984 as Reynolds Industrial Park



# First Coast USMC Installations



## Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island

- Blount Island Command was established in 1989 as subordinate command to MCLB Albany on land leased from Gate Maritime Properties (GMP)
- After failed negotiations to purchase, the land was seized by eminent domain in 2004; GMP was ultimately paid \$160M
- The command is responsible for maintenance of the USMC Maritime Prepositioning Ships; each ship can supply a 2,200-member Marine Expeditionary Unit; every 36 months all cargo is offloaded inspected, cleaned, and tested

## Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- Capt. William T. Rossell, the first district engineer in Florida, was stationed in Jacksonville in 1884; in 1902 the Key West and Tampa Districts merged Jacksonville
- In 1937, the District completed the Okeechobee Waterway across Florida
- The Central and South Florida Project was authorized in 1948; it provides flood risk reduction, water supply and other benefits from Orlando to Florida Bay
- The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, which was approved in 2000, became the Corps' single largest ecosystem restoration project
- The District maintains 17 deep water ports and supporting intracoastal waterways



# First Coast USA Installations



## Camp Blanding Joint Training Center

- Acquired by Florida National Guard in 1939 as “swap” for location of current Naval Air Station Jacksonville
- During WWII, more than 800,000 soldiers trained at Camp Blanding and it contained the population of the fourth largest city in Florida
- After WWII it saw only limited use, but started expansion in the 1970s as a Class A military installation
- Its current 73,000 acres is primary training site for the Florida National Guard and organizations like Civil Air Patrol and ROTC units; includes 50 live fire ranges capable of handling all weapons for Light Infantry Brigade level

# First Coast USA Installations

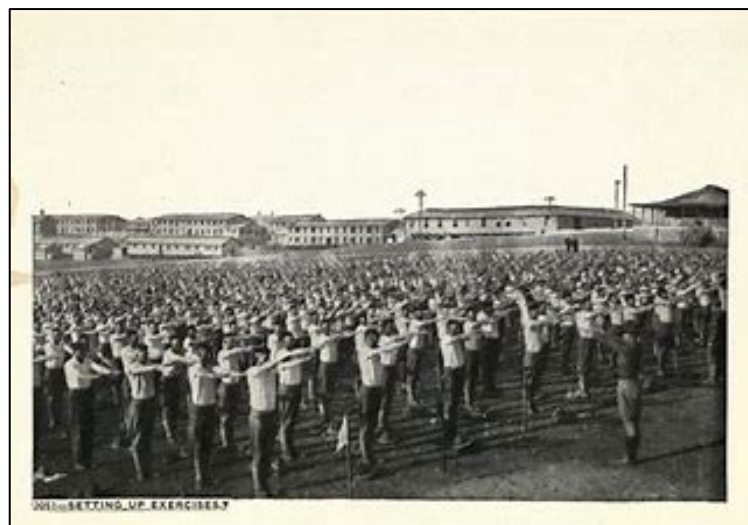
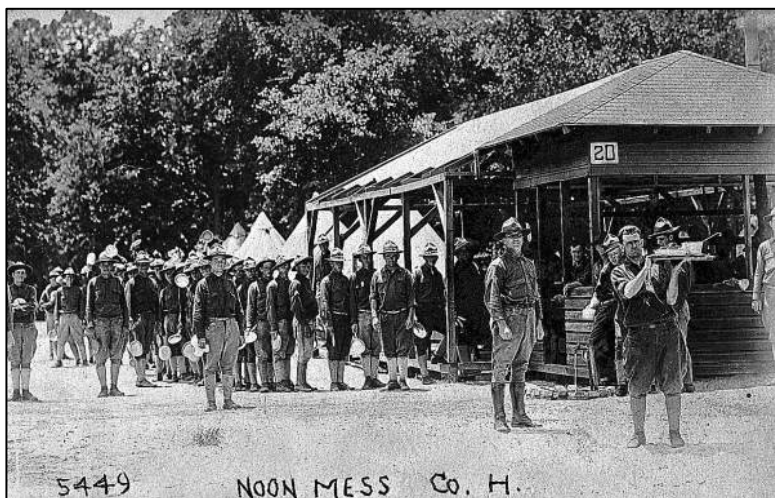
## St. Francis Barracks

- Erected in St. Augustine in 1588 for Franciscan missionaries; original structures replaced 1724-1755 due to fires
- In 1763, Florida was ceded to England; the chapel was converted into a two-story barracks for a company of soldiers and became known as the St. Francis Barracks.
- In 1821, Florida became part of the United States, and the barracks became a U.S. Army installation
- Today, St. Francis Barracks is home to the Headquarters, Florida National Guard



## Camp Joseph E. Johnston

- Acquired in 1907 by Florida National Guard; during World War I, it served as an Army training camp for quartermasters
- Grew to a complex of over 600 building complex and had the nation's second largest rifle range
- Renamed Camp J. Clifford R. Foster in 1928; served as a Depression-era work camp until 1935



# First Coast USAF Installations



## Florida Air National Guard 125th Fighter Wing, Jacksonville Air National Guard Base at Jacksonville International Airport

- On 1 July 1956, the Florida Air National Guard's 159th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron was authorized to expand to group level
- Moved from Jacksonville Imeson Airport to current location in 1971
- Redesignated 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing in the early 1990s; converted to F-15s in 1995
- Responsible for the maintenance of USNORTHCOM/NORAD Air Defense Alert mission in Jacksonville and at operating location at Homestead ARB

## Florida Air National Guard 202nd RED HORSE Squadron Compound at Camp Blanding

- Activated on 5 January 1985
- Started in temporary facilities at Camp Blanding; in 1993 moved into its present facilities on 140 acres of land leased from the State
- A highly mobile, rapidly deployable, civil engineering response force that is self-sufficient to perform heavy damage repair required for recovery of critical facilities and utility systems, and aircraft launch and recovery



# First Coast USCG Installations



## United States Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville

- USCG operated a small “Boot Camp” at Mayport after WWII
- **Current base on St. Johns River established ???**
- Sector Jacksonville was established in 2005 from the consolidation of Group Mayport, Base Mayport; it is located on six acres of land adjacent Naval Station Mayport
- Sector Jacksonville’s Area of Responsibility encompasses 40,000 square miles of ocean and inland waterways, including 190 miles of coastline from King’s Bay, GA to Port Malabar, FL



# The Society of American Military Engineers



Join the New Society of American Military Engineers and  
Subscribe to the New Journal of the Society—

## The Military Engineer

A LIVE PERIODICAL DEVOTED TO THE ENGINEER'S PART IN NATIONAL DEFENSE

“Its objects are, in brief, to **promote solidarity and co-operation between engineers in civil and military life**, to **disseminate technical knowledge** bearing upon progress in the art of war and the application of engineering science thereto, and to preserve and maintain the best standards and traditions of the profession, all in the interests of patriotism and **national security.**”

—The Military Engineer, January 1920

of engineers.

As an important means to this worthy end, we are estab-  
lishing at this time a Society of American Military Engineers.

### SAME Mission:

“Build leaders and **lead collaboration among government and industry** to develop multi-disciplined solutions to **national security** infrastructure challenges.”

### SAME Vision:

“Serve our nation as the foremost **integrator for leadership development and technical collaboration** within the A/E/C profession.”



# The Society of American Military Engineers and the Jacksonville Post

**Ready for the next 100 years!**