



# Naval Air Station Pensacola Historical Radiological Assessment

September 2015

## Introduction

The Department of the Navy is preparing a **Historical Radiological Assessment**<sup>1</sup> (HRA) for Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Florida. The HRA will document current and past radiological operations, particularly those that may have adversely affected the installation. This will be accomplished by evaluating information gathered from extensive archival research, interviews, and site visits. The HRA will determine if **radiological investigations** are needed to further assess any area for contamination. The final HRA report will be prepared in accordance with Department of Navy and Federal guidelines and is expected to be completed by December 2016.

The scope of this HRA includes NAS Pensacola and its outlying properties of:

- Bronson Field (Blue Angel Recreational Park)
- NAS Saufley
- Corry Station

## Overview of Base History

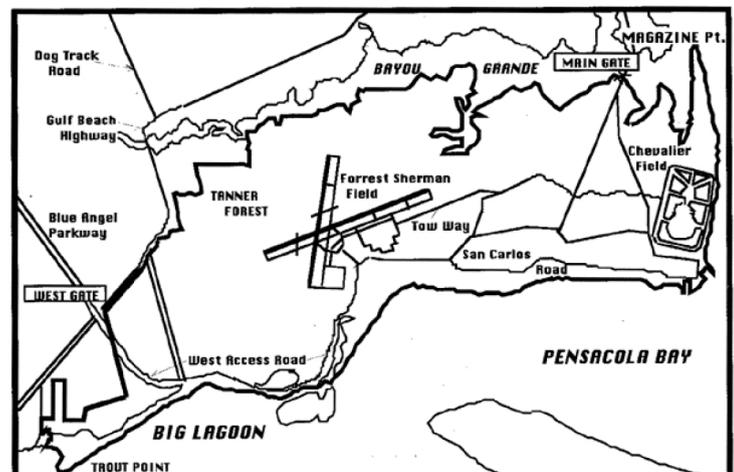
NAS Pensacola, part of the Pensacola Naval Complex, occupies approximately 5,589 acres on a peninsula about five miles southwest of Pensacola, Florida. This peninsula is bounded on the north by Bayou Grande and on the east and south by Pensacola Bay. The main industrial operations conducted at NAS Pensacola are located on the older, eastern end of the peninsula. The western end accommodates the Forrest Sherman Field and undeveloped wooded land.

The mission of NAS Pensacola is to provide facilities, service, and support for the operation and maintenance of naval weapons and aircraft to operating forces of the U.S.

Navy as designated by the Chief of Naval Operations. Some of the tasks required to accomplish this mission include operation of fuel storage facilities, aircraft maintenance, maintenance and operation of engine repair facilities, and weapon systems support.

The history of the Pensacola Naval Complex can be traced back four centuries during the colonization period of North America. Construction of the current military base began in 1914 for training the Navy's pilots. Today, the Pensacola Naval Complex provides support to 125 tenant commands (94 DoD and 31 other) with a combined workforce of 23,000 military and civilian personnel.

In 1914, the Navy's first permanent air station was established on the site of the old Pensacola Naval Shipyard. An aviation radio laboratory, the first to conduct experiments with airborne radios,



<sup>1</sup> Words in **bold text** are defined on Page 3.