Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach

Military Readiness, Economic Contribution, and Community Partnerships
In the late 1930s, a Navy study was undertaken to determine the best possible location for a Southern California ammunition depot to service the fleets then stationed in Long Beach and San Diego. Out of several options studied, including the Newport Harbor and Palos Verdes areas, it was determined that Seal Beach was the best site for such a facility. Construction of the station first started in February 1944. The station was commissioned in November 1944 as Naval Ammunition and Net Depot Seal Beach. The base at that time had two primary missions: storage and loading of ammunition onto Pacific Fleet ships bound for the war, and servicing the anti-submarine and anti-torpedo nets used to protect fleet bases and anchorages around the world.

At the end of World War II the station was placed into a reduced operating status, but was soon reactivated in 1950 at the beginning of the Korean War. The station has been fully operational since that time. In September 1962, the base name was changed to Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach (NWSSB). This was done to reflect the station's evolution from a mere storage facility to one actively taking part in the assembly, testing and/or maintenance of weapons systems. In the ensuing decades the station has evolved into the Navy’s primary West Coast ordnance installation. Surface combatants and medium-sized amphibious ships are safely and efficiently loaded with missiles, torpedoes, decoys and gun ammunition at the facility's 950 foot-long wharf, and larger ships can be accommodated at an explosives anchorage located in nearby Long Beach Harbor. An average of 40 ships are loaded or unloaded each year.

In 1972, then President Richard Nixon and Congress designated approximately 965 acres of the station’s 5,256 acres as a National Wildlife Refuge. In a unique partnership, the refuge is supported by the Department of the Navy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The station is home to many endangered or threatened bird species, including the California least tern, the Ridgeway’s rail, the California brown pelican, the peregrine falcon, and the Belding’s savannah sparrow. The refuge constitutes one of the few remaining natural, undeveloped coastal areas of Southern California.

Base infrastructure includes 220 buildings, 80 miles of paved road, and 144 ammunition magazines with over half a million square feet of storage space. NWSSB is also the headquarters command for Navy munitions operations at all other Navy installations west of the Mississippi River, and operates weapons station detachments at Norco and Fallbrook, California.
LEADERSHIP WELCOME

NWSSB and its detachments located in Fallbrook and Norco, California provide weapons storage, loading, missile maintenance, weapons systems assessment, and support to ships of the U.S. Pacific Fleet and Coast Guard. NWSSB is host to Navy Munitions Command CONUS West Division, Coastal Riverine Squadron Eleven, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Corona Division, as well as other Navy and U.S. Marine Corps commands.

As the only naval weapons station port within a 1,000-mile radius of the fleet concentration in San Diego, NWSSB is a critical and irreplaceable national security asset. Specializing in ordnance support for surface warships, medium-sized amphibious assault ships and Fleet Marine Force units, NWSSB delivers deployable Navy and Marine Corps forces with missiles, torpedoes, gun ammunition, countermeasures devices, and other munitions. A majority of U.S. Pacific Fleet warships are stocked with ordnance from NWSSB, enabling our Sailors to conduct full-spectrum operations anywhere, anytime in support of the Maritime Strategy and the nation’s defense.

The installation contributed more than $716 million in total economic benefit to Orange and Los Angeles counties in fiscal year (FY) 2017, with more than 1,700 military and civilian personnel supporting various Defense Department programs. In addition to contributing to the economic benefit of the region, NWSSB has a strong commitment to our environmental stewardship responsibilities, and energy and water conservation practices.

In the heart of Southern California’s coastal environs, NWSSB is strategically located near the largest concentration of military power in the world, providing tremendous support to local military customers and businesses throughout the region. NWSSB’s support to the warfighter is even more critical today given the number and types of threats to U.S. national security. With the pivot to Asia, we anticipate an increased fleet presence in the Pacific region.

Execution of the installation’s mission and those of its supported commands (i.e., tenants) cannot be realized without the support of our community partners, including our neighbors, the cities of Seal Beach, Westminster, Huntington Beach, and Los Alamitos, as well as the counties of Los Angeles and Orange. We are honored by the outstanding support we receive from local communities and organizations, and we strive to maintain a good neighbor status. Although security regulations greatly limit civilian access, NWSSB hosts a number of public events each year, and also supports many community events outside the fence line.

The information in this brochure acknowledges the community partnerships and positive economic influences generated by NWSSB’s presence in the region. NWSSB is proud of these contributions and we will continue to work together to improve the overall quality of life for the community, promote economic stability and ensure mission sustainability in support of our country.

-Captain Noel J. Dahlke
Commanding Officer, Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach

NWSSB’S MISSION

The mission of NWSSB is to provide shore-based infrastructure support to the Navy’s ordnance mission and other fleet and fleet support activities. The station is the Pacific Fleet’s primary ordnance logistics base, and supplies munitions to a majority of the fleet’s surface vessels. As such, operations at NWSSB primarily focus on the receipt, storage, segregation, and issue of munitions, including onloading and offloading of munitions to and from ships and ammunition barges. In support of these operations, NWSSB operates 144 ammunition storage magazines, an ammunition wharf, and four ammunition barges. NWSSB also performs offshore explosives anchorage operations to onload and offload cargo and ammunition ships that are unable to dock at the ammunition wharf. The station supplies munitions to Marine Corps amphibious forces, supports maintenance on surface-launched missile systems, and operates one of four small arms ranges supporting the Third Fleet.
NWSSB encompasses 5,256 acres of Navy-owned property on the northern Orange County coastline. The station is located in a highly-urbanized environment bordered by major transportation routes, and residential and commercial land use. NWSSB is the only military installation with a National Wildlife Refuge completely enclosed within its boundaries, and is home to many threatened and endangered species.
A Unique Navy Installation

- The only active-duty military base in Orange County, and one of only two active-duty military installations in the Los Angeles/Orange County basin.
- Protector of some of the last undeveloped coastal open space in the region.
- Home to some of the last remaining coastal wetlands and the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge.
- Location of the nation’s West Coast World War II Submarine Memorial.

With a Unique Mission

- Provides missiles, torpedoes, gun ammunition and decoys to a majority of the U.S. Pacific Fleet.
- The only naval weapons station port capable of supporting the fleet concentration in San Diego.
- Supports critical maintenance work on Navy missile and torpedo systems.

Preparing for a Sustainable Future

- Winner of the Navy’s 2017 world-wide Excellence Award for small installations and the 2018 regional installation Excellence Award, NWSSB personnel consistently win Navy and DoD-wide awards for safety, environmental stewardship, energy conservation, and quality of life.
- A recognized Navy leader in efforts to streamline operations, saving taxpayer dollars while providing exceptional support to the fleet and the nation.
ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

NWSSB represents a stable source of economic stimulus to the surrounding region in the form of good-paying jobs, housing and retail demand, local expenditures for supplies and support services, and related economic activity that ripples through a wide range of economic sectors. The majority of the local and regional economic benefits that can be attributed to the Navy’s presence at NWSSB occur within Orange and Los Angeles counties.

The information below summarizes the total economic impact that NWSSB had on the regional economy of Orange and Los Angeles counties during FY 2017. The total estimated economic impacts include the direct effects of industry output (regional production and sales); personal spending by employees and visitors; local contract expenditures to support Navy operations; and corresponding direct and indirect economic effects estimated using a regional economic impact model.

In FY 2017 NWSSB generated $716 million* in total economic benefit to Orange and Los Angeles counties. Other key economic benefits included:

- $664 million in industry output - $41 million from payroll, $616 million from operations and maintenance, and $7 million from visitor spending.
- $52 million in direct military and civilian payroll expenditures to personnel residing in Orange and Los Angeles counties.
- 3,132 jobs - including 1,749 military/civilian personnel residing in Orange and Los Angeles counties and an estimated 1,383 jobs stimulated from base operations, personal spending, and visitor spending.
- $23 million** in state and local tax revenues - $3 million from payroll, $20 million from operations, and $451,000 from visitor spending.

Source: NWSSB Economic Impact Assessment, August 2018 (using financial data from FY 2017).

*All numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number.

**Provided for informational purposes, not included in the Total Economic Impact.
**Payroll and Personnel**

In FY 2017 there were 1,749 government personnel (1,316 military and 433 civilians) employed in primary activities at NWSSB and living in Orange or Los Angeles counties. Total payroll to support this workforce was approximately $52 million.* These direct jobs and payroll expenditures generated the following additional induced economic benefits:

* All numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number.

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**Visitors**

In FY 2017, NWSSB had a total of 55,118 visitor days. Visitors stayed in Orange and Los Angeles counties an average of 5 days**. It is estimated that visitors to NWSSB spent about $912,000 on off-base lodging in FY 2017 and $3 million at local restaurants and retail establishments.

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**Estimated induced economic benefits from FY 2017 payroll:**

- $41 million in total industry output
- 262 additional jobs
- $3 million in state and local tax revenues

**In FY 2017 visitor spending at NWSSB generated:**

- $7 million in total industry output
- 63 additional jobs
- $451,000 in state and local tax revenues
ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

Operations and Maintenance
NWSSB spent nearly $465 million* on operations and maintenance (O&M) support, construction, and related services and supplies within Orange and Los Angeles counties in FY 2017. These direct expenditures contributed to the direct, indirect, and induced economic benefits shown in this box:

Estimated economic benefits from FY 2017 O&M spending:
• $616 million in total industry output
• 1,058 jobs
• $20 million in state and local tax revenues

* All numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Tax Revenue
The following table lists the state and local tax revenue associated with direct, indirect, and induced expenditures for payroll, O&M, and visitor spending at NWSSB in FY 2017:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>State/Local Taxes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payroll Spending</td>
<td>$3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O&amp;M Expenditures</td>
<td>$20 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor Spending</td>
<td>$451,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$23 million</strong></td>
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NWSSB has a strong partnership with the community and provides many opportunities for local residents to visit with their Navy. Such opportunities include ship tours, the annual Memorial Day ceremony at the station’s World War II Submarine Memorial, and monthly public tours of the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge. NWSSB partners with the volunteer non-profit organization Friends of Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge on a wide range of community volunteer activities including, environmental outreach, habitat restoration, cleanups, biological surveys, and invasive species control. Additionally, military and civilian personnel volunteer thousands of hours per year in support of a wide range of community needs, including beach cleanups, blood drives, veterans services, Toys for Tots events, the Seal Beach Junior Golf Academy, and a long-standing “Partnership in Education” with McGaugh Elementary School. Station personnel also participate in community events, such as holiday parades and other neighborhood activities.
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Fire Department Mutual Aid

Through a mutual aid agreement with the Orange County Fire Authority, the NWSSB Federal Fire Department provides significant emergency services support to the City of Seal Beach, including the nearby Leisure World retirement community.

Urban Farming

There are two agricultural out-leases on NWSSB that encompass approximately 2,000 acres. NWSSB’s objective is to increase organic farming and expand biological practices, in an effort to minimize water consumption and chemical usage. The lease agreements include provisions to encourage sustainable farming practices and expand certified organic fields. Lease revenues have been reinvested, resulting in the installation of a new well to replace an aging well and improving irrigation water quality. One farmer uses drip irrigation to minimize water usage, along with beneficial insects to avoid the use of chemical herbicides and pesticides.
NWSSB is home to the only National Wildlife Refuge located completely within an active military installation. The NWSSB command recognizes the importance of environmental stewardship in day to day Navy operations, and there is a staff of over 15 biologists, environmental engineers, and support personnel who work constantly to protect, preserve, and enhance these vital resources.

NWSSB encloses and protects one of the largest remaining areas of open space in Orange and Los Angeles counties, and is home to many endangered and threatened species including:

- California least tern
- Ridgeway's rail
- Western snowy plover
- Belding's savannah sparrow

Energy And Water Conservation

**Alternative Energy** - NWSSB is a regional leader in energy and water conservation. NWSSB has installed multiple photovoltaic roof-top systems, replaced traditional lighting with energy efficient LED lighting, and incorporated other energy conservation measures. As a result, the need to purchase off-site power has been significantly reduced, and thus provided savings for both the Navy and the taxpayer. Additionally, energy resilience improvements have been initiated on NWSSB, with plans to construct a 100 Megawatt battery storage system and micro grid through an out-lease with a developer. Battery storage systems are a critical component to the growth of photovoltaic systems because they give the utility grid the ability to manage the fluctuation in production throughout the day.

**Electric Vehicles** - In 2017, 17 vehicles were replaced with electric vehicles and charging stations were installed on NWSSB. The electric vehicles mostly replaced a fleet of Ford Ranger pickup trucks (24 miles per gallon), reducing greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 2 tons within the first year of use.

**Energy Reduction Efforts** - Multiple programs are underway to generate energy savings through improved practices and more efficient equipment. Over a two year period, NWSSB reduced energy consumption by 22 percent through the implementation of energy efficiency projects and awareness efforts for tenant personnel to modify energy usage behaviors.

**Water Savings** - NWSSB achieved a 45 percent reduction in water use through tighter controls, the introduction of smart irrigation systems, and the substitution of more drought tolerant landscaping.

**Groundwater Sustainment Partnership** - The Navy is partnered with the Orange County Water District to combat salt water intrusion into the Orange County Groundwater Basin. The groundwater basin provides two-thirds of the regional potable water supply. NWSSB supported the installation of new wells targeted to better improve monitoring data and improve the effectiveness of long-term efforts to protect the basin.
NAVAL WEAPONS STATION SEAL BEACH IS HOME TO THE

• 5th Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment
• Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest
• Naval Surface Warfare Center, Corona Division, Detachment Seal Beach
• Navy Munitions Command Pacific, CONUS West Division
• Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge
• Coastal Riverine Squadron 11

For more information, please contact:
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