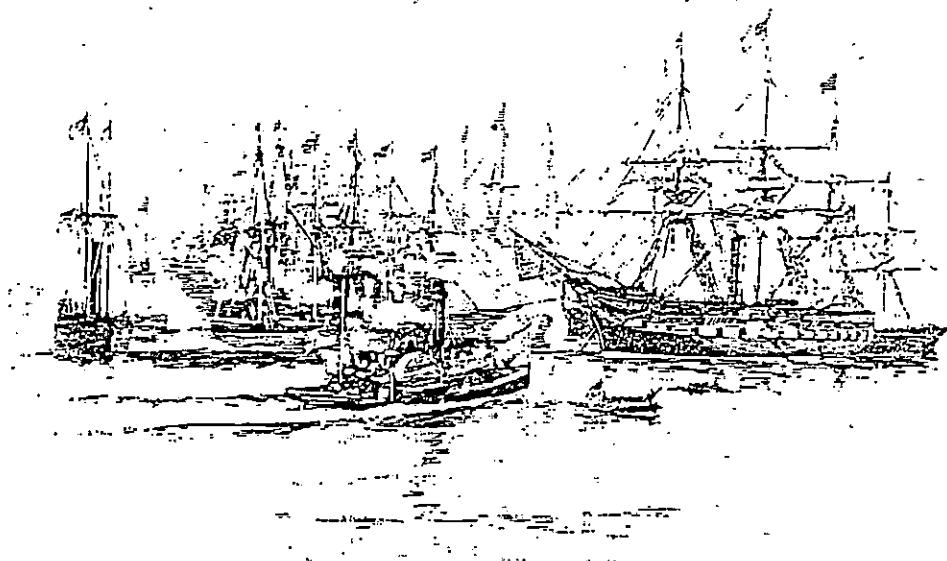


***A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE
NAVAL RESERVE CENTER, PERTH AMBOY,
NEW JERSEY
1971-1994***

***INCLUDING THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TOWN OF
PERTH AMBOY IN UNITED STATES NAVAL HISTORY***





Researched and Developed by:
SK3 Russell K. Dutcher, III, USNR
NMCB 21 DET. 1221

Part I

Composition and Organization

1. Mission and Purpose

The Naval Reserve Center, Perth Amboy, New Jersey is responsible for providing active duty support by the Selected Reserve units attached to this center. The support provided includes Administrative, Medical, Training, Logistic and Recruiting Services. Specific support services include the maintenance, and all training and educational service administrative functions for the more than 250 reservists attached and drilling out of this command. All support activity is geared to enhance the mobilization readiness of the Naval Reserve personnel onboard.

2. Units Under Operational Command

The following Selected Reserve Units have at one time or currently are drilling at the Naval Reserve Center, Perth Amboy, New Jersey.

VTU 0411	NSWE HQ 104
MAC G 0411	MCB 0413
SMF 104	SMF 204
CHB 2604	NMCB 1221
MINDIV 123	NAVSEA DET 1404
EOD 504	4FSSG
MIUW 504	REDU Co.
MOMAG 504	NWSE 904
FLTHOSP 500	FFT-1090 AINSWORTH
VTU	COOP 2004

3. Administrative Personnel

Commanding Officer

LCDR. C.J. Meyer, USNR

Training Officer

Command Chief Petty Officer, NRC, Perth Amboy, NJ

RMC. J.F. Velletta, USNR

Supply Officer
SK2 K. R. Dickson, USNR

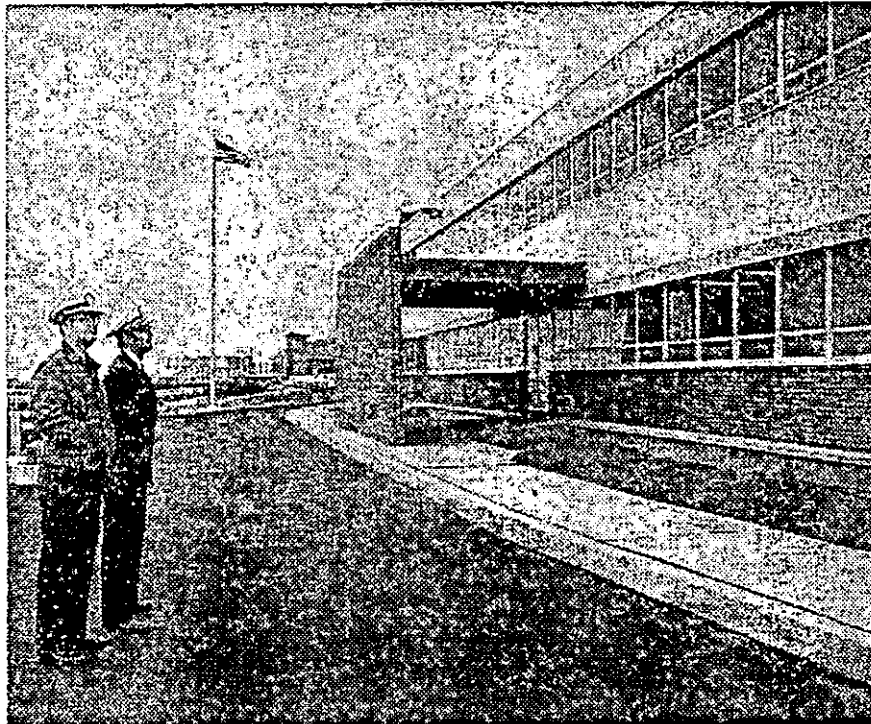
Personnel Officer
PN1 N. Alexander, USNR

Administrative Officer
YN1 A.M Plotkin, USNR

Assistant Administrative Officer
YN2 Bryant K. Thompson, USNR

Medical Officer
HM3 Kerry P. Esquivel, USNR

4. Photograph of the NRC, Perth Amboy, NJ
March 1971



LCDR. Arnold and LCDR. M.M. Manshel view the Training Center facility.

5. Photograph and Biographical Sketch of Commanding Officer



LCDR. Christian J. Meyer was born in Chelsea, Massachusetts on 23 November 1946. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education from Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts in 1969, and taught Physical Education and coached from 1969-1980. He then earned his Master's Degree in Secondary Education Administration from The University of Lowell, Lowell, Massachusetts in 1979, and was commissioned an Ensign at Officer Candidate School, Newport, Rhode Island in November 1981.

Upon graduation from OCS, **LCDR. Meyer** served as the Communications Officer, Auxiliary Officer and Combat Information Officer in **USS Bronstein (FF1037)** from 1982-85. He then served as the Personnel

Manpower Management Officer in USS **Vancouver (LPD-2)** from 1985-86 and was designated a TAR Officer in November 1985. From September 1986 to May 1989, he served as the Surface Training Program Manager at REDCOM NINETEEN, San Diego, California. After graduating from Surface Warfare Department Head School, Newport, Rhode Island in December 1989, he assumed duties as Operations Officer in USS **Durham (LKA-14)** from January 1990 to July 1991 and completed an extensive ten month deployment in support of Desert Shield/Desert Storm. In July 1991, he joined USS **Tripoli (LPH-10)** where he served as the Assistant Operations Officer (Surface) and made a deployment to Somalia in support of Operation Restore Hope. On 3 April 1993, **LCDR. Meyer** assumed command of Naval Reserve Center, Perth Amboy, New Jersey.

LCDR. Meyer's awards include the Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, National Defense Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Kuwaiti Liberation Medal, Fourth Star for the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Expert Pistol Award and Expert Rifle Award.

LCDR. Meyer is married to the former **Claudia Nesbit** of San Diego. He has three children, Lynne Marie, Chris, Jr. and Eric by a former marriage, and a stepson, Justin.

Part II

Chronology

1. Listing of Significant Events

1. 1965- Studies and documentation of plans submitted for a new Naval Reserve Facility at Perth Amboy, due in part to the damage caused by constant flooding to the existing structure. (NJ Naval Militia Armory)
2. 1969- Appropriations finalized and ground-breaking for the new Naval Reserve facility at Perth Amboy.
3. 1 May 1971- Dedication of the Naval Reserve Center, Perth Amboy. Dignitaries from the Naval Department and the City of Perth Amboy attend. LCDR. Milton E. Arnold, first commanding officer, took charge of one of the

newest concepts in Naval Reserve Center technology. The entire second deck was utilized for hands-on training in a shipboard simulator environment to include Communications, Engineering, Operations, Deck and the Bridge. This concept was to last over the next decade. Population of the new center would fluctuate from a low of 200 reservists upwards to 500. Active duty staff size also fluctuated from the current 7 members to it's peak of 13 in the middle 1970's. Five Minesweeps, USS Fulmar (MCS), USS Meadowlark (MCS), USS Limpkin (MCS), USS Dominant (MSO 430), and USS Direct (MSO 431) were assigned to the center during the 1970's and early 1980's. Two SMF units, 104 and 204, now known as SIMA, were attached during the early years and provided outstanding shipboard repair to each minesweep using two fully equipped workshops located at the end of the building. Over the years, various "tall ships" from visiting countries, tied up at the pier facilities. The latest visitor was from the country of Portugal in 1991. NRC-Perth Amboy participated in various parades which included the national holidays of Memorial and Veteran's Day.

4. **March 1973-** USS Exultant (MOS 441) departs Reserve Center on a 2 month operation off of the Virginia coast.
5. **11 April 1975-** Sea Cadets hold drill and undergo first inspection by LCDR. Leonard Carver, U.S. Navy Sea Cadet Corps.
6. **July 1976-** Tall ships dock near the Reserve Center in preparation for the 200th Birthday of the United States.
7. **1977-** Due to a devastating fire at the local Jewish Temple, the Reserve Center allows the congregation to hold their religious services on the drill deck for a period of some months, until a new temple can be constructed.
8. **21 September 1982-** LCDR. S.J. Winowcz, Jr., given command of USS Arkansas (CGN 41) contingent of Naval Reserves from outgoing commander, J.W. Leeson during ceremonies at the Reserve Center.
9. **12 November 1982-** NMCB 1221, attached to Naval Reserve Center, PA, begins clean-up of the Perth Amboy Ferry Slip on behalf of the Waterfront Association to Effect Restoration (WATER). The Tottenville Ferry Slip has been designated an historic landmark by both the State of New Jersey and the Federal Government.

10. 1983-1991- NRC-Perth Amboy participates in various parades within the county of Middlesex. The national holidays of Veterans's and Memorial Day are specifically observed.

11. 1986 through 88- During the tenure of CDR. Ronald Monkres, the Reserve Center begins to downsize it's operations and revert strictly to a structural classroom setting.

12. Summer 1991- Tall Ships from Portugal tied up to NRC pier for a port visit to Perth Amboy.

13. December 1991- Services and Wreath ceremony commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii by Japanese forces.

14. 1992- Fleet Hospital and 4thFSSG personnel mobilized during the Persian Gulf War. Thirty-Seven members of these units served overseas in support of the United States and it's Allies.

15. 1993- Members of NMCB 21 Det. 1221 deploy to Panama and Greece in support of these governments efforts for revitalization of their public works programs.

16. 14 & 15 May 1994- The Naval Reserve Center, Perth Amboy, due to the drastic downsizing of the US Armed Forces and massive budget cuts, holds it's final drill. The closure of this facility is now made permanent.

2. Commanders and Dates of Tenure

1. LCDR. Milton E. Arnold	1971-74
2. LCDR. Bernard R. Ness	1974-77
3. CDR. Samuel Steel	1977-80
4. LCDR. Floyd Dunphey	1980-83
5. LT. Harry Hernandez	1983-86
6. CDR. Ronald G. Monkres	1986-89
7. LCDR. Michael Donahoe	* 1987
8. LCDR. James R. Wooley	1988-90
9. CDR. P. Dirga	** 1990
10. LCDR. R.N. Repchak	1990-93
11. LCDR. Christian J. Meyer	1993-94

- * CO W. Trenton & Perth Amboy Reserve Centers
- ** Interim CO July-September 1990

3. Recruiting Command

Recruiting Personnel

AT1 (AW) Craig A. Santiago, USNR
BM2 Marc B. Witt, USNR

The Recruiting Personnel attached to the Naval Reserve Center, Perth Amboy, are responsible for procuring qualified applicants for the various Naval Reserve Programs available. They are part of NAVRESCUITCOMDETSIX, Scotia, NY and are responsible for recruiting in the NY, NJ and PA areas. Part of this procedure entails a detailed background check of all prospective applicants and comprehensive testing and evaluation of their strengths and weaknesses.

Applicants who pass the testing and afore-mentioned background checks are offered rates comparable to their civilian job titles. This applies only to those who have no prior military service. Prior service personnel are offered rates and job titles as close as possible to those held during their active duty tenure.

The recruiting command has been a functioning entity at the Center since it's inception in May 1971.

One of the most productive of the Navy's recruiting programs has been the APG (Advanced Pay Grade) Program, which has bolstered the numbers of the Naval Reserve by selective recruitment from the civilian population.

Part III

Brief Narrative of the Naval Reserves

1. Early Naval Militia

The United States, since it's birth, has always been a seafaring nation. This premise has carried on throughout the decades and is as true today as it was Two Hundred and Twenty years ago.

During the Revolutionary war, many, if not all, of the thirteen colonies had

some existing type of "naval militia". This was by and large made up of those members of the local militia companies who were employed in the seafaring trades. During the war, they were to play an invaluable part in shaping the destiny of our nation.

New Jersey, with its many "open water ports", was to play a key role in supplying to the United Colonies the much needed privateers which would prey on the British ships bringing much needed supplies to the forces of His Majesty, King George, III. The port towns of Cape May, Perth Amboy, Navesink, Woodbridge, Elizabethtown and Newark were to give shelter to the many privateers who would refit and resupply at these vital centers and again take to the sea in search of additional prey. The ships of the "Continental Navy", would also at various times have a need for additional personnel with which to augment their crews. Recruiting centers were set up along the Jersey coast in hopes that adventuresome young men might heed their country's call and enlist in the fight against tyranny.

Perth Amboy, one of the patriotic of these port communities, is known to have been a recruiting center for the Continental Navy and Marine Corps. Though extensive records do not exist for the number of men enlisted by the Naval Forces, there has been documentation that proves the enlistment of at least three men into the service of the Continental Marine Corps.

Again, during the War of 1812, Perth Amboy, as well as the various other New Jersey ports, were used as rendezvous stations and recruiting centers for the United States Armed Forces. Records of the New Jersey Adjutant General's Office show that many men were enlisted from Middlesex County into the United States Army and Marine Corps. It is again quite unfortunate that records pertaining to the Navy's recruiting efforts in this area have not survived. We must again surmise that because of the strategic location of Perth Amboy, many of the county's male inhabitants must have enlisted for some length of time in the "Sea Service".

During the Second War for American Independence (War of 1812), a company of "Sea Fencibles", was for a time stationed along the Amboy and Woodbridge waterways. These men, raised under the act of Congress approved 26 July 1813, were employed for the defense of ports and harbors of the United States. Originally Ten Companies were authorized by the Congressional Act and further augmented by the local militia units at hand. Two such companies from the Amboy area were employed in various duties some of which entailed the fortification of the various shoreline areas. Captain John Barone's Company of Militia being of the South Amboy district kept a constant vigil for an enemy which thankfully would never come. The Company of Militia commanded by Captain Andrew Bell of the city of Perth Amboy, was

responsible for that part of the shoreline which progressed from the Tottenville Ferry and extended in both directions.

The Militia units, equipped with mainly Revolutionary vintage weapons, did what they could and at times became quite innovative and resourceful. Artillery which could be had, was placed at strategic locations where it could inflict the most damage upon an incoming invader.

The War of 1812, primarily a blue-water naval episode, did produce it's share of land encounters, but the effects on the inhabitants of New Jersey were quite insignificant. Mainly, the New Jersey Detailed Militia waited patiently for an otherwise unseen enemy.

After the cessation of hostilities between Great Britain and the United States, the need for formal "naval militia" ceased to present itself. The "select county militia units" continued to muster and drill but for many this was a symbolic act pure and simple.

In the years preceeding the War Between the States as well as during, the various States issued naval commissions to those being deemed worthy of such a high honor. In most instances, the respective State Governors would recommend a select few and authorize "rank" in the State Naval Militia. Very often the names would be forwarded to the Department of the Navy and submitted to the the Secretary of the Navy for selection and appointment in the United States Navy.

During the late War of the Rebellion, this type of "appointment status" was fully accepted by both the Navy and Civil Branch of the United States Government. The need for officers, qualified or otherwise, opened a wide field of opportunity for many. Unfortunately, often times many of those appointed by using these methods were woefully ill-qualified and inept to say the least.

After the War, the revamping of both the Navy and Army was called for by many in Congress. It is heart-rendering to admit, that during the period from 1869-1888 the reputation and fighting capability of the United States Navy and naval militia units under State control, sank to a new low.

In 1889, Secretary of the Navy, Benjamin F. Tracy heeding the doctrine of **CAPT. Alfred Thayer Mahan, USN**, quickly set about emphasizing the need for a modern "Steel Navy" and a resurgence of the doctrine of hands-on training for officers and enlisted.

In 1891, at Tracy's urging, Congress formally appropriated funds to form and equip the state naval militia units which in years to come would form the nucleus of the United States Naval Reserve.

These units would be trained in the ways an manners of the US Navy and would provide a source of manpower in case of national emergency.

Thus, the United States Navy was now fully on it's way to becoming a force

to be reckoned with among the seven great world powers.

2. Naval Reserves

The Navy realizing the need for the existing state naval militia forces to be consolidated, prodded Congress and on 16 February 1914, the Naval Militia Act was born. Under the act, the naval militias came directly under the jurisdiction of the Navy Department.

Under Navy regulations, the prescribed dress of the naval militia would be set and strictly adhered to. There would be means which would differentiate between regular and non-regular naval officers. Enlisted uniforms regulations would also be modified and distinguish those members from that of the regular navy.

On 3 March 1915, Congress formally authorized the Naval Reserve Force and set regulations for their dress and conduct. There were to be five classification groups. Class I- The Fleet Naval Reserve, Class II- The Naval Reserve, Class III- The Naval Auxiliary Reserve, Class IV- The Naval Coast Defense Reserve and Class V- The Naval Reserve Flying Corps.

Uniform regulations as previously stated would distinguish between the Naval Reserve Force and the Regular Navy. It would not be until some decades later, that the uniform prescribed for the Naval Reserve would parallel that of the regular force.

During the Great World War, the Naval Reserve Force provided a vast amount of manpower for the United States Navy. The trained and qualified personnel of the reserves were instrumental in freeing up the "regulars" and at various times, were directly involved in the conflict aboard the many vessels of the US Fleet.

Officers and men of the Naval Reserves contributed directly to victory over Germany, Italy and Japan during the Second World War and were again at the forefront during both the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War. Most recently during the Gulf War, the men and women of the "reserves" distinguished themselves to the fullest extent.

In the years to come, the United States will turn even more to the reserve forces. The qualified and highly professional personnel who encompass much of the total strength of the various branches of our Armed Forces, will in the estimation of many high ranking officials, be counted upon to fill the void and take charge as our country passes through this most volatile decade.

Part IV

Perth Amboy and Some Notable Naval Figures

Perth Amboy, owing to the fact that it's role in the history of the State of New Jersey is so well documented, still yearns to be idolized as the so called "stomping ground" for many a naval hero!

One such notable figure who figures so prominently in our nation's, as well as our navy's past, is that of **CAPT. Thomas Truxton, USN.**

Truxton, a native of Long Island, NY, was born in 1755 and at age twelve ran away to sea. At age fifteen, he was siezed by a British "press-gang" and served three years in the Royal Navy. In 1775, **Truxton** was in command of a brig sailing the West Indies trading routes. During the Revolution he became a successful blockade runner and privateer. General George Washington personally cited the young sailing master for his many varied exploits on behalf of the Continental Forces.

After the Revolution, **Thomas Truxton** garnered a commission as Captain in the United States Navy. He was directed to take command of one of the new "frigates", **USS Constellation**. During the Undeclared Naval War with France, **Truxton** while still in command of the **Constellation** won two important battles against French ships of greater size and fire-power. On 9 February 1799 **Constellation** met the French Frigate **L'Insurgente** and in a three hour battle cut the French vessel to pieces. Again on 1 February 1800 the **Constellation** engaged the French Frigate **La Vengeance**. During a fight which lasted from dusk till dawn, the Frenchman was so battered that she limped away and reached Curacao in sinking condition. It must be noted that the French vessel counted 50 guns while the American Frigate was rated at 36. The **Constellation** in actuality carried 38 guns.

Because of these two great victories, Congress voted a gold medal to **Truxton**. On 30 March 1800 the resolution was made official by the joint session of Congress.

Thomas Truxton was raised to the rank of Commodore and in 1802 after many valued years of service, he retired from the naval service.

During the ensuing years, the Commodore authored many naval works and excelled in the field of Longitude and Latitude.

Truxton married Mary Drau of Perth Amboy and they were members of St. Peter's Church. This union produced thirteen children, two sons and eleven

daughters.

In 1807, **Truxton** and his family moved to Philadelphia and continued his retirement. He passed from this earth in 1822 and is buried in Christ Church Cemetery.

CAPT. James Lawrence, USN was born in Burlington NJ about 1784 and entered the United States Naval Service as a Midshipman in 1798. He was the half-brother of Elizabeth Lawrence Kearny, wife of Michael Kearny, who was the father of Commodore Lawrence Kearny of Perth Amboy.

CAPT. Lawrence was schooled primarily at St. Peter's Church School and tutored by his sister. He spent much of his formative years in Perth Amboy and thus can be counted as one of it's most famous sons. He was a communicant member of this church.

During the Tripolitan War, **Lawrence** served under the command of **CAPT. Stephen Decatur, USN**. During the retaking of **USS Philadelphia**, **Lawrence** played a leading part and was commended by **Decatur**.

During the next decade, **Lawrence** would rise to the rank of Captain and come to command **USS Chesapeake**. During the War of 1812, **Chesapeake** engaged **HMS Shannon** and during a bitter but costly fight the young Captain lost his life. It is reported and recorded in Naval history that his dying words were, "*Don't Give up the Ship*", which has become the rallying cry for the United States Navy.

CAPT. James Lawrence is buried in Trinity Church burial yard in New York City.

Commodore Lawrence Kearny, USN was born in Perth Amboy, Middlesex County, New Jersey in 1789. The son of Michael and Elizabeth Lawrence Kearny. His uncle was **CAPT. James Lawrence, USN**.

Commodore Kearny was appointed a midshipman in the U.S. Navy 24 July 1807 at the age of eighteen. Through the strong patriotic attitudes of his mother was to become an important influence throughout his life.

During his career, **Commodore Kearny** served on several naval vessels, they being **U.S.S. Constitution**, **U.S.S. President**, **U.S.S. Enterprise**, **U.S.S. Warren** and **U.S.S. Constellation**. The latter vessel served as his flagship while in command of the East Indian Squadron.

During his tenure, **Commodore Kearny** was instrumental in bringing about an "Open Door Policy" with China which was done with diplomacy rather than force. Also, because of his firm stand against the British Naval

Squadron off of Honolulu on 5 July 1843, the Hawaiian Islands were to become our Fiftieth State. During this tense standoff under which the threat of military intervention was used, **Commodore Kearny** again used his expertise in diplomatic relations to quell this international incident to the credit of his country.

Aside from his naval career, **Kearny** held the distinction of being elected Mayor of the City of Perth Amboy and served from 1848-49. He being the only naval officer to hold a civil post while on active duty. In 1849 he was Commander of the Norfolk Navy Yard.

On 13 February 1848, Josephine Kearny wife of **Commodore Lawrence Kearny** passed from this earth. Some years later, **Kearny** would join his wife in eternal rest. Both are buried in the St. Peter's Churchyard and their family plot is marked by a simple stone. It reads:

**IN MEMORY OF LAWRENCE KEARNY, U.S. NAVY
JOSEPHINE**

Wife of Lawrence Kearny, U.S.N.
JAMES LAWRENCE KEARNY 1846-1921

Part V

Command Staff

1. Commanders of Units Attached to the Center

REDU Co.	CDR. B. Dawson
NWSE HQ 104	CAPT. J. Garcia
NWSE 904	LCDR. C. Edwards
FLTHOSP 500	CDR. J. Gavigan
4FSSG	CDR. R. Scalia
RNMCB 21 D 1221	UTC B. Von Borstel
MOMAG 104	LCDR. G. Butter
VTU	CAPT. J. Beason
COOP 2204	LCDR. J. Cronauer

Part VI

Past and Current Uses of the NRC, Perth Amboy

NRC-Perth Amboy was constructed in 1969. It is located in an urban area at 1 Fayette Street, Perth Amboy, Middlesex County, New Jersey and consists of 3 acres of land. The property was purchased from the City of Perth Amboy that same year. The City had previously purchased the land from a developer, Arthur Tracy, in 1957. Interviews with local residents indicated that the area was used as a sand and gravel yard prior to 1969. A review of aerial photographs from 1954 and 1962 confirm this usage. A review of Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps indicates a variety of previous uses dating back to the late 1800's, including a lumber yard, a safe manufacturer, and a hotel. The appearance of the property has changed over the years due to the backfilling of areas along the waterfront. The Reserve Center now rests on top of that fill.

A recent discovery has disclosed that in 1826, the site along the Perth Amboy waterfront including that of the Reserve Center, was considered as the site for the United States Naval Academy. The Maryland House of Delegates sent to the US Congress a resolution concerning the site of the proposed naval academy. Other sites presented were that of St. Louis, Norfolk, Memphis, Washington, D.C., Governor's Island, NY, and New London.

Perth Amboy's claim that it had the best site for the Naval Academy was based on its location near the open sea, but with a land-locked bay where an enemy fleet could not enter, and provided enough room in the Arthur Kill and Raritan River. Obviously, Congress did not take these matters into consideration and Annapolis, Maryland was chosen as the site for the Academy.

Over the latter years, the primary mission the the Reserve Center has been classroom and field training. Other activities which have been conducted at the NRC have included military parade drills and until the mid-Eighties, wood and metal working and a fully operational Shipboard Simulator which was phased out in 1986.

There are two main buildings comprising the NRC, one of which consists of a 30,000 square foot two-story framed structure with concrete block outer walls. This serves as the main training and administrative building. The boiler room is located in the northeast corner of the Administrative Building.

Building #2 is a one-story garage with an adjoining hazardous materials storage room. The garage is constructed of concrete block and a steel roof. The garage is used to store various construction materials and office furniture. In August of 1992, to comply with the State of New Jersey's environmental

protection laws, the center's 2,500 gallon underground storage tank was removed and the facility converted to natural gas.

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2. The Old Armory

The old Naval Militia Armory was constructed in 1927 when during a session of the New Jersey State Legislature a bill was introduced authorizing the construction of a "naval armory" in Perth Amboy.

CDR. Deegan, USNR, was to oversee the construction of the Armory and was instrumental in formulating the training and schedules for years to come. National Guard as well as Naval Reserve units would, over the years, come to drill at the facility.

The structure was formally dedicated on 4 October 1930, and designated the New Jersey Naval Militia Armory.

Over the next forty years, the Armory would outgrow it's usefulness because of size limitations and problems with flooding and marked deterioration. With increased calls by the Naval Reserve, the Department of the Navy set about formulating a plan where-by a new center might be constructed which would be most beneficial for the units attached to the Reserve Command.

In 1969, construction of the NRC, Perth Amboy was undertaken and culminated with it's dedication on 1 May 1971.

The Armory, all but forgotten, was rescued from obscurity by a local developer, Barry Rosengarten. As part of a revitalization project involving the Perth Amboy waterfront, Rosengarten turned the decaying old building into one of the most successful restaurants in the State, thus preserving a part of our and the Naval Reserve's glorious past.

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3. Final Synopsis

Over the years the NRC-Perth Amboy has been a viable part of this nations illustrious naval tradition.

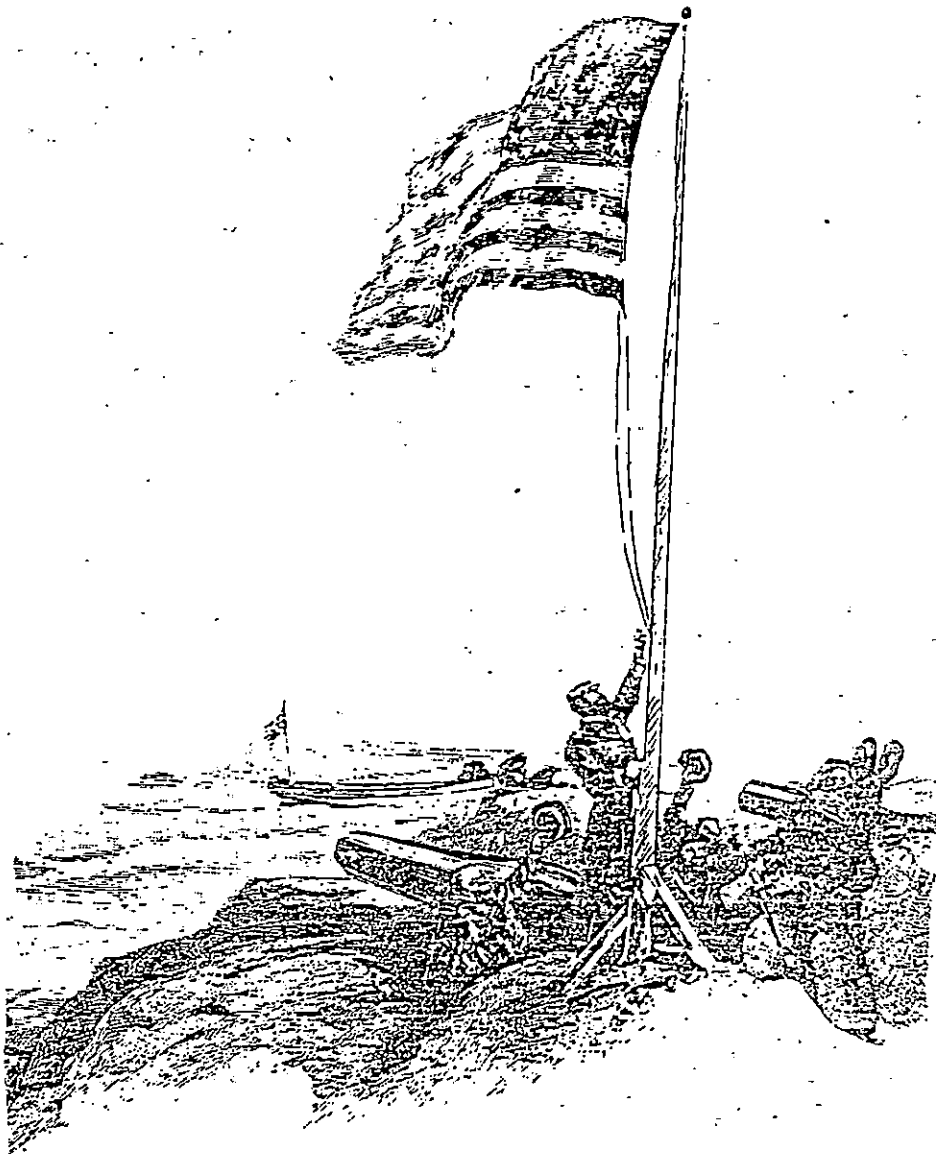
The Naval Reserve Center Perth Amboy, New Jersey has been ordered closed by the Defense Base Realignment Closure Act of 1990 (Public Law

101-510). In today's geo-political climate, moving towards world peace, the Navy has a need to reduce it's capacity and the "right sizing" plan of various base closures provides an excellent first step towards a streamlined, efficient naval infra-structure.

Not withstanding, NRC-Perth Amboy has done it's part in history in meeting **CAPT. Alfred Thayer Mahan's** call for a modern "steel navy" and a resurgence of the doctrine of hands-on training for officers and enlisted.

During it's heyday, the NRC-Perth Amboy boasted a home for five mine sweeps, a technologically advanced shipboard simulator, a working carpenter shop, welding facility and metal shop and structural classroom training. During many "weekends", vessels would call on the center to perform much needed repairs and those reservists were always ready to oblige.

With the closure of this Center, we will be losing not only a Reserve facility but a part of the City of Perth Amboy's rich naval heritage which because of the current budgetary constraints must become a reality.



"The Objective of the U.S. Navy is not Conquest but Defense"

Secretary of the Navy, Benjamin F. Tracy
First Annual Report to Congress, 1889