



# Naval Air Station Jacksonville 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) Jacksonville, 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 Jacksonville and its outlying properties of:

- Rodman Range
- Outlying Landing Field Whitehouse

## Overview of Base History

NAS Jacksonville is located approximately nine miles south of downtown Jacksonville, Florida, in Duval County. The installation occupies approximately 3,800 acres along the western bank of the St. Johns River.

NAS Jacksonville was officially commissioned on October 15, 1940. The oldest Navy installation in the area, NAS Jacksonville is vital to the nation's defense. The air station's rich tradition, support, and service to our forces are symbolized by its mission. It provides integrated, effective and

efficient shore based products and services to U.S. Navy aviation warfighting readiness and its allies in order to maintain and enhance readiness of the Global Force, Fleet, Fighter, and Family. It includes the operation and maintenance of naval aircraft and weapons and hosts more than 19,000 Department of Defense (DoD) personnel and contractors and serves 49,112 retirees within a 50-mile radius. NAS Jacksonville is the largest Navy base in the Southeast Region and third in the nation.



In 1951, the Navy reactivated the Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC) and Marine Air Division at NAS Jacksonville in support of the Korean Conflict. This joint operational and training status has remained active since then.



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



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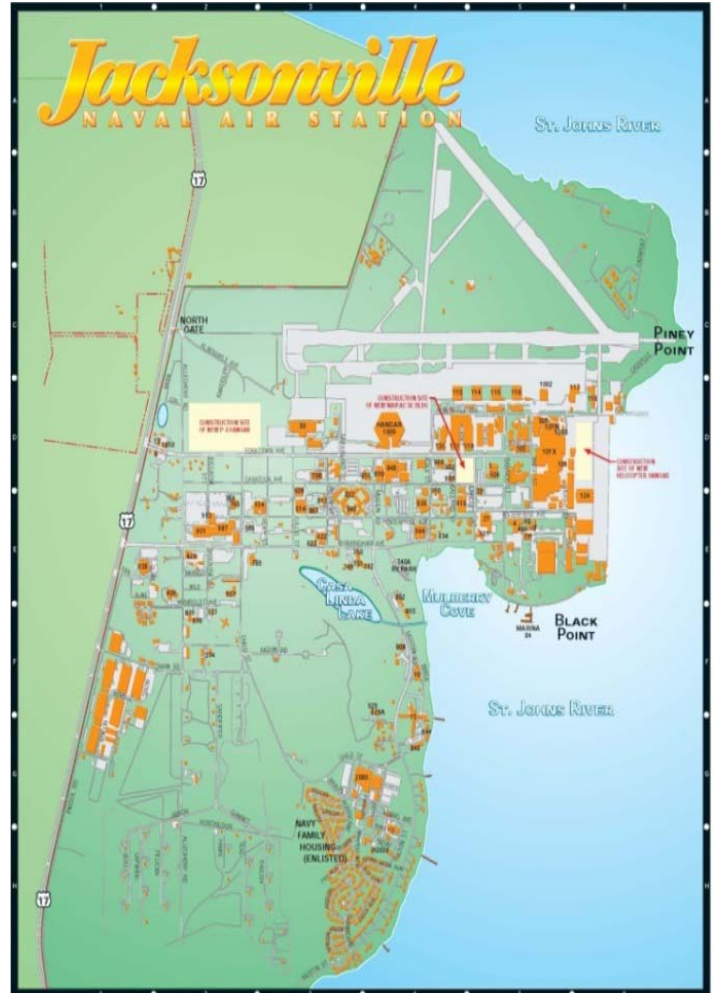
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NAS Jacksonville has a long history of aircraft assembly and maintenance beginning prior to the US entry into World War II. Currently, the Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE), a modern industrial facility that conducts in-depth modification and upgrade on a variety of aircraft such as the P-3 Orion, EA-6B Prowler, SH-60 Seahawk, and F/A-18 Hornet, and rework on aircraft engines including the J52, T700, TF-34, T-56, and F-404 as well as other aircraft engine and weapon system components.

## More about the Historical Radiological Assessment (HRA)

This HRA will examine and document the extent of current and former activities involving the management, use, and disposal of **radioactive materials** at NAS Jacksonville. The HRA will:

- Document information about radiological operations, investigations, and surveys discovered during searches of historical records and interviews;
- Identify potential, likely, or known sources of radioactive materials, and the areas where these materials might have been used.
- Classify sites as “**radiologically impacted**” where radioactive materials were known to have been or were potentially used, stored, or disposed (all other sites are, by definition, “non-impacted” by radiological operations);
- Assess the likelihood of any potential residual radioactive material to migrate to other areas or the environment; and,
- Identify sites that need further action, and recommend actions that will work toward site closure.



The HRA will consolidate all of this information in one reference document.

## What is Happening with the HRA Now?

Currently the HRA is well under way! The HRA Assessment Team has already reviewed over 36,000 records and drawings, has made several site visits, and is planning more. The assessment team will soon be interviewing people who respond to our request for information. That request will be widely advertised through different avenues, including local newspapers, to reach as many potential interviewees as possible.



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## Definitions

**Historical Radiological Assessment (HRA)** – a detailed investigation to collect historical radiological information and data for a particular site and its surroundings where radioactive materials were used, stored, or disposed.

**Radioactive material** – a substance that contains or emits radiation. Radioactive materials and radiation occur in nature. These materials are used by the military and private industries and are present in common household items. Common items that contain radioactive materials are smoke detectors, **radioluminescent devices** including dials, ships' deck markers, and gauges, lead paint analyzers, static eliminators, non-electrically powered exit signs, and biological and chemical agent detectors.

**Radiological investigation** – a systematic examination of an area to determine if radioactive materials are present and, if so, at what levels.

**Radiologically impacted** – a radiologically impacted site is one that has a potential for radioactive contamination based on historical information or is known to contain radioactive contamination. Areas immediately adjacent to the primary impacted site may be included in this designation. Radiologically impacted sites include: areas where radioactive materials were used or stored; areas where known spills, discharges, or other unusual occurrences involving radioactive materials have occurred or may have occurred, that could have resulted in the release or spread of contamination; and sites where radioactive materials might have been disposed of or buried.

**Radioluminescent device** – an item containing radioluminescent paint that allows the device to be seen in the dark. These devices were commonly used by the Navy and possibly contained radium-226, strontium-90, tritium, or promethium-147. Historically, timepieces, dials, and gauges were coated with paints containing radium so they would glow in the dark.