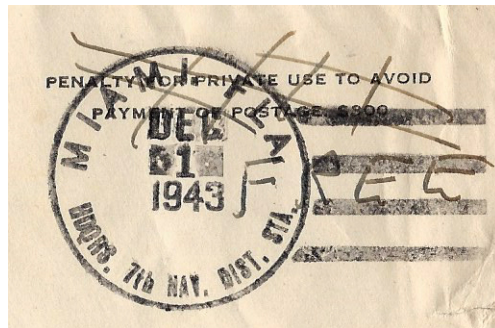# MILITARY BASES IN FLORIDA
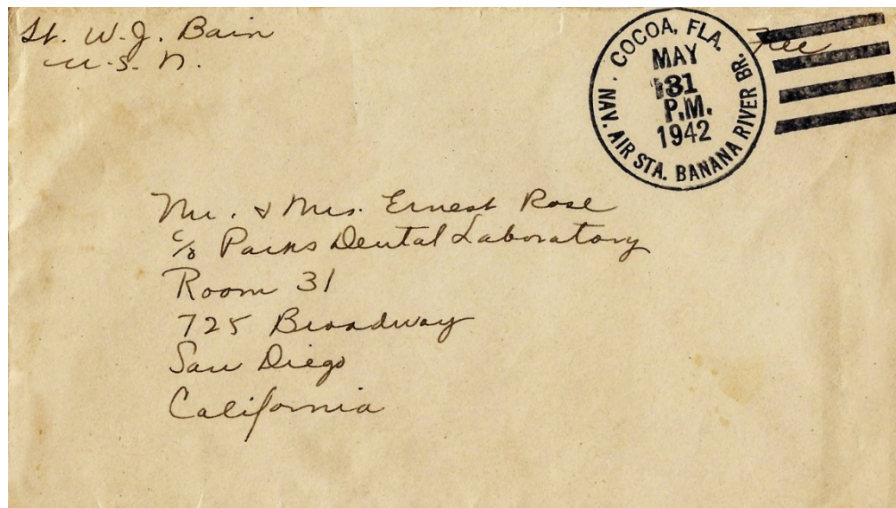
PART ONE

NAVAL AIR STATIONS

A "Naval Air Station" (NAS) is an air base of the United States Navy consisting of a permanent land-based operations location for the military aviation division of Naval aviation. These bases include squadrons, groups or wings, and their various support commands.
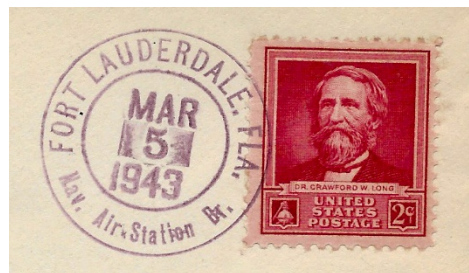

MAIMI, FLA. HEADQUARTERS 7TH NAVAL DISTRICT STA. – Established 07/13/1942, Discontinued 02/18/1946.

COCCA, FLA. NAV. AIR STA. BANANA RIVER BR. -- Established 02/15/1942; Discontinued 04/01/1945.

DE LAND, FLA. NAV. AIR STATION BR.-- Established 12/15/1942; Discontinued 05/19/1945.

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA. Nav. Air Station Br.-- Established 10/22/1942; Discontinued 06/30/1946.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA. N. AIR STA. BR. UNIT NO.1 – 06/03/1944

JACKSONVILLE, FLA. NAVAL AIR STA. – Established 02/15/1941 (Universal Meter).
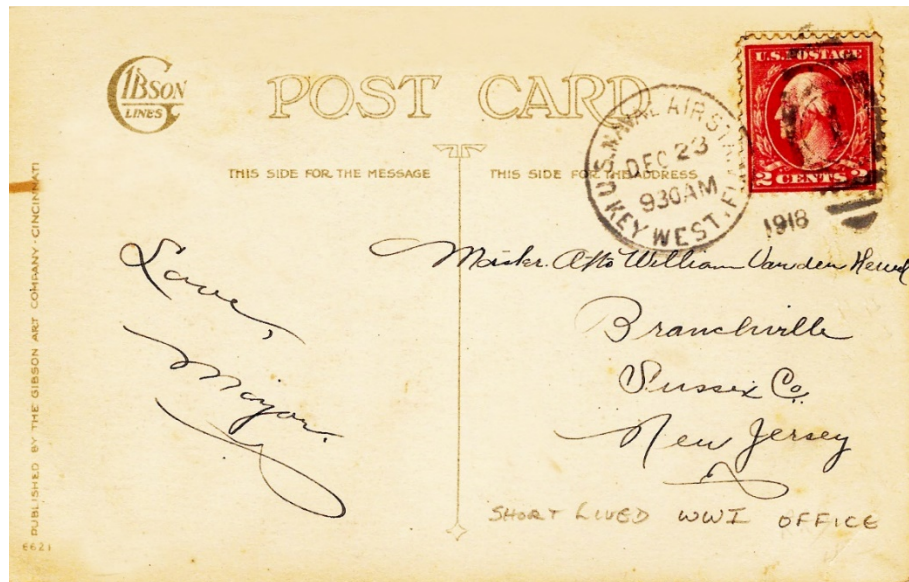
JACKSONVILLE, FLA. NAV. AIRSTA. BR. UNIT NO.1 – 03/03/1945 on Florida First Day
Cover with JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA N.A.S. – T.S. (Naval Air Station – Training School).

KEY WEST, FLA. NAVAL AIR STATION handstamps –
Registered, Parcel Post, M.O.B., and Received.

KEY WEST. FLA. U.S. NAV. AIR STATION STA. -- Established 01/25/1945;
Discontinued 05/21/1945; Duplex cancellation.

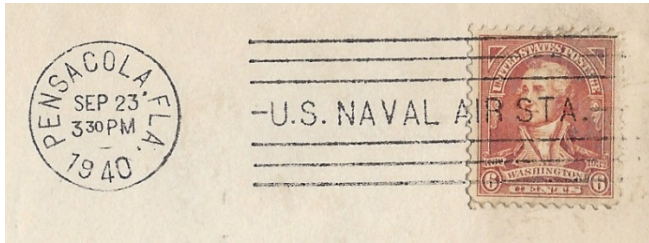World War I **KEY WEST, FLA. U.S. NAVAL AIR STATION** duplex dated 12/23/1918.

LAKE CITY, FLA. Nav. Air Station Br.-- Established 12/18/1942; Discontinued 01/21/1946.

MELBOURNE, FLA. Nav. Air Station Br.-- Established 11/03/1942; Discontinued 08/15/1945.

MIAMI, FLA. NAV AIR STATION BR.-- Established 11/03/1942; Discontinued 08/15/1945

MAIMI, FLA. Nav. Air Sta. (LTA) RICHMOND BR. -- Established 10/01/1942; Discontinued 01/31/1946. (LTA was Lighter Than Air)

PENSACOLA, FLA. U.S. NAVAL AIR STA. – International Machine Slogan Cancellation, dated 09/23/1940.

PENSACOLA, FLA. U.S.N. AIR STA. duplex cancel dated 04/01/1942.

PENSACOLA, FLA. NAV. AIR BR.-- Established 12/01/1929; Discontinued 05/14/1943; Reestablished 01/01/1946.

SANFORD, FLA..-- Established 12/05/1942; Discontinued 12/10/1945.

VERO BEACH, FLA. Nav. Air Station -- Established 12/15/1942; Discontinued 03/16/1946

MISSING EXAMPLES

DAYTONA BEACH, FLA. NAV. AIR STATION BR – Established 12/15/1942; Discontinued 01/14/1946.

MIAMI, FLA. MARINE CORPS AIR STATION BR. – Established 05/16/1952; Changed name to Naval Air Station Br. 01/01/1959.

MIAMI, FLA. NAVAL RECEIVING BARRACKS STA. – 08/05/1942; Discontinued 04/02/1945.

NAVAL HOSPITAL

PENSACOLA, FLA. NAVAL HOSPITAL BR..-- Established 11/12/1930; Discontinued 11/04/1931; Reestablished 02/22/1934; Discontinued 09/15/1949

JACSKONVILLE, FLA. NAV. HOSP. BR.-- Established 10/20/1942; Discontinued 06/19/1945.

MISSING EXAMPLES

KEY WEST, FLA. NAVAL HOSPITAL STA. – Established 10/20/1942.

NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE

KEY WEST, FLA. NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE STA. – Established as Naval Station Sta. Key West on 03/01/1940; Discontinued 07/01/1944; Reestablished 02/25/1946. Named changed to Naval Submarine Base 05/01/1947; and on 06/01/1948 name changed to Naval Air Station.
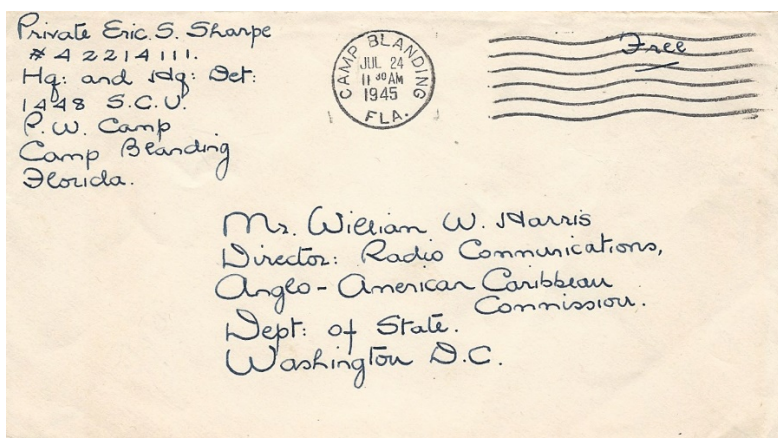
MISSING EXAMPLES

MIAMI, FLA. SUBMARINE CHASER TRAINING CENTER, STA. -- Established 07/17/1942; Discontinued 07/01/1944.

PART TWO
MILITARY BASES – CAMPS

CAMP BLANDING, in Clay County, was a National Guard camp and training site. The National Guard Officers Association of Florida recommended the new camp be named in honor of Lieutenant General Albert H. Blanding. Blanding had graduated from the East Florida Seminary (now the University of Florida) in 1894 and entered military service. He commanded the 2nd Florida Infantry during the Mexican Border Service in 1916 and 1917.

In 1940, Camp Blanding was leased to the United States Army as an active duty training center. The post was originally used by New England and Southern troops preparing for deployment overseas. However, during the war, Camp Blanding served as an infantry replacement training center, an induction center, a German prisoner-of-war compound, and a holding center for three hundred and forty-three Japanese, German and Italian immigrant residents of the United States.

CAMP BLANDING FLA. Established 10/16/1940; Discontinued 05/14/1946.

CAMP GORDON JOHNSTON opened in September 1941 as Camp Carrabelle. It was later named after Colonel Gordon Johnston, a well-decorated soldier who served in the Spanish–American War in Cuba with the Rough Riders, in the Philippine–American War, and in World War I.
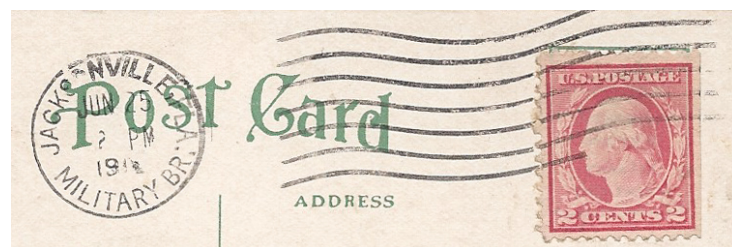
The camp at 165,000 acres served as an amphibious training base housing around 10,000 troops at one time and rotating between 24,000 and 30,000 soldiers from 1941 through 1946. The nearby islands of Dog Island and St. George Island were used as landing points for exercises.

CAMP GORDON JOHNSTON, AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING CENTER FLA.
Established 10/16/1942; name changed to CAMP GORDON JOHNSTON 03/01/1943;
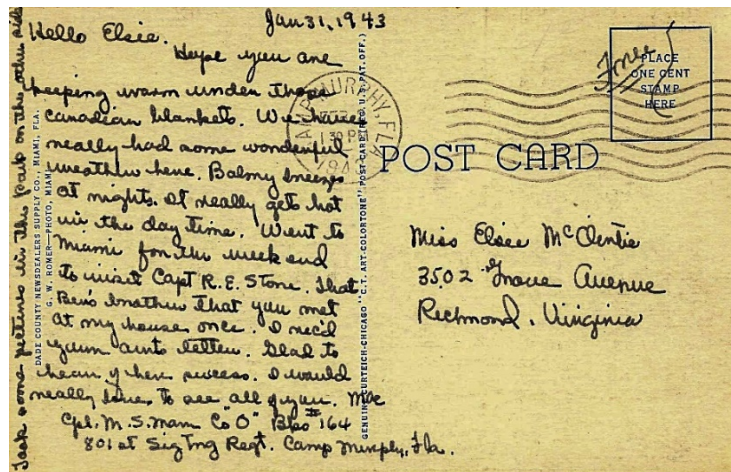Discontinued 03/31/1946.

CAMP JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON during World War I, the base was known as an Army training base for soldiers. In May 1908, thirteen thousand acres were authorized by the Florida state legislature to create a military camp, and from 1909 to 1917 the Florida National Guard had a base established there. The United States entered World War I on April 6, 1917.

The federal government decided to create a new base in Jacksonville for the sole purpose of training officers in the United States Army. The base was named after the Confederate General Joseph Eggleston Johnston, one of the senior Generals for the Confederate Army during the American Civil War. General Johnston reached the rank of Quartermaster General in the U.S. Army in 1860. This is significant to the identity of camp Joseph E. Johnston because the camp specialized in training Quartermasters in the Army.

CAMP JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON, JACKSONVILLE, FLA. MILITARY BR.
Established 10/15/1917; Discontinued 05/16/1919.

CAMP MURPHY opened in 1942. It was the home of the Southern Signal Corps School during World War II and served as a US Army base for instruction in radar operation in the early course of the war. The camp was named in honor of Col. William Herbert Murphy, a pioneer in the development of radio beams and equipment for military aircraft.
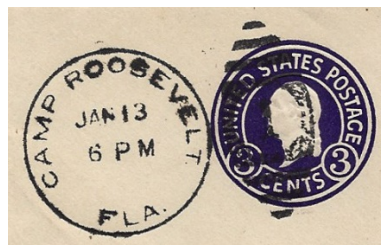

Camp Murphy, West Palm Beach – Established 07/16/1945; Discontinued 11/29/1944.

CAMP ROOSEVELT originated as a temporary home for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the large labor force needed to build the Cross-Florida Barge Canal. Ironically, the arrival of the Great Depression gave the plan a boost off the drawing board and into action. Local politicians urged the federal government to take on the canal project as a federal relief program through the New Deal.

Franklin Roosevelt's administration allocated funding for the project in September 1935, and, by the end of the month, construction was underway to prepare for workers to arrive. The plans called for what amounted to a small city, complete with medical and recreational facilities, a dining hall, a post office, and headquarters buildings. The Army Corps of Engineers designated the site as Camp Roosevelt in honor of the President.

After the War the camp served as emergency housing for returning World War II veterans and their families.

CAMP ROOSEVELT FLA. Established 10/15/1935; Discontinued 07/16/1937.
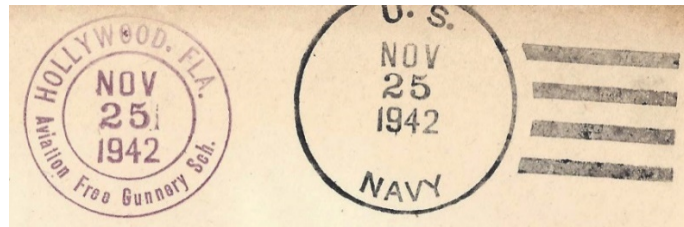
MISSING EXAMPLES

Camp Izard, 1845-1855, Established 01/31/1845; Changed to Stockton 05/26/1885; Discontinued 12/16/1890.

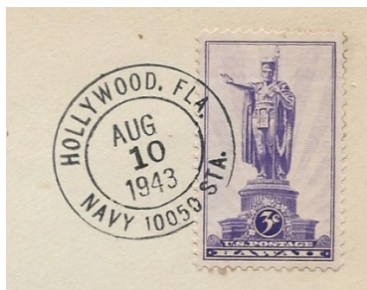**Camp Perry** – Established 08/30/1888; Discontinued 05/02/1890.

MISCELLANEOUS BASES

PENSACOLA, FLA. AERONAUTIC – Established 06/01/1918; Discontinued 1920.

HOLLYWOOD, FLA. AVIATION FREE GUNNERY SCHOOL STA. –
Established 10/11/1942; Discontinued 03/22/1943

HOLLYWOOD, FLA. NAVAL TRAINING SCHOOL, INDOCTRINATION, STA. 10050 --
Established 12/22/1942; Discontinued 02/25/1943.

MISSING EXAMPLES

JACKSONVILLE, FLA. AVIATION FREE GUNNERY SCHOOL BR. – Established 11/10/1942

PART THREE
NAVAL SHIPS RELATED TO FLORIDA

The battleship **USS Florida** was lead ship of the Florida class of battleships, launched in 1910 and commissioned September 15, 1911. Her only sister ship was *USS Utah*. During World War I, she served in the North Sea, escorting convoys to Norway.
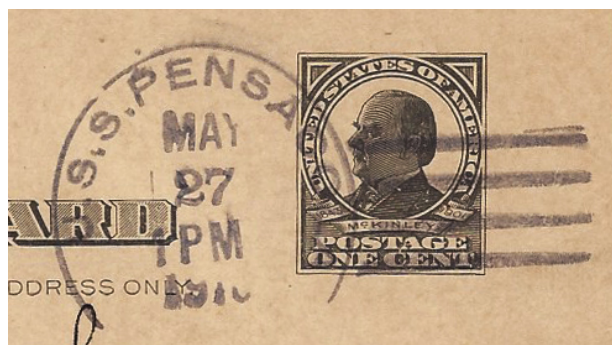

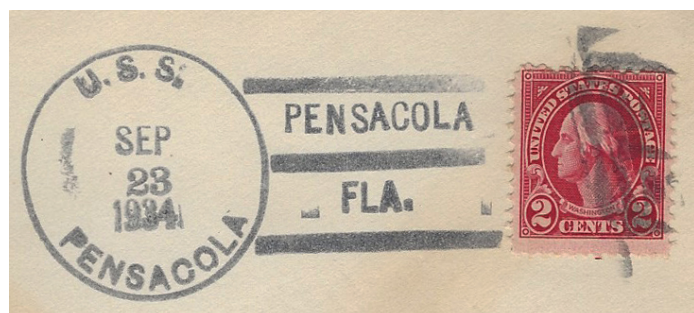Under the terms of the London Naval Treaty of 1930, *USS Florida* was decommissioned February 16, 1931.

12.29.18, v3; Military Bases in Florida, Briggs & Lera

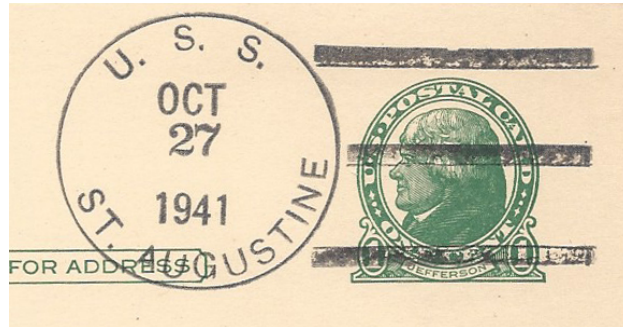There have several United States Navy ships named **USS *Pensacola.***

The first, *USS Pensacola* (1859) was a steamer launched in 1859 and was decommissioned in 1911.

The second USS *Pensacola* (AK-7) was a German steamer seized when the United States entered World War I and used as a transport. Recommissioned on November 22, 1898, until finally decommissioning on December 6, 1911, and struck from the Navy Register on December 23. She was burned and sunk by the Navy in San Francisco Bay near Hunters Point early in May 1912.
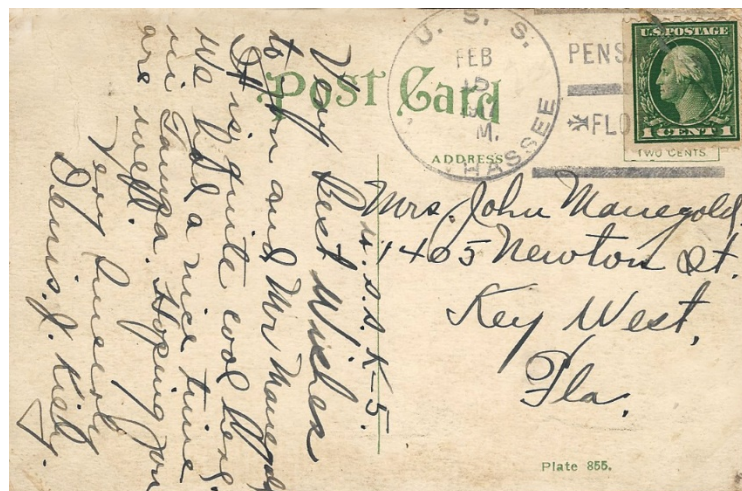

The third USS *Pensacola* (CA-24) was a cruiser launched in 1926 that served until the end of World War II. **USS *Pensacola* (CL/CA-24)** was a cruiser of the United States Navy that was in service from 1929 to 1945. She was the lead ship of the Pensacola class, which the navy classified from 1931 as heavy cruisers. The third Navy ship to be named after the city of Pensacola, Florida,

Patrol Gunboat **St. *Augustine*** (PG-54), was built in 1929 as yacht and purchased by the Navy on December 5, 1940 at New London, Conn *;* converted at Bethlehem Steel Corp., Boston, Mass.; was renamed St. *Augustine* on January 9, 1941 ; and commissioned on January 16, 1941. She was assigned to the 1st Naval District and operated on patrol out of Boston until 1942 when she was transferred to the Eastern Sea Frontier, for which she escorted convoys between New York and various Caribbean ports.

St. Augustine got underway from New York on January 6, 1944, leading a convoy of ships bound for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Late that evening, when southeast of Cape May, N.J., she was rammed amidships by the merchant tanker, *Camas Meadows.* Her seams were split by the collision, and the gunboat sank in 5 minutes.

USS Tallahassee was converted to a submarine tender, from September to November 1914. She conducted post-repair trials in Hampton Roads before joining the Fleet for maneuvers and exercises into the spring of 1915. Tallahassee served Division 1, Submarine Flotilla, Atlantic Fleet, and operated at Chiriqui Lagoon, Almirante Bay, Panama; as well as Cristobal, Canal Zone, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

During World War I, Tallahassee operated in the Canal Zone, in the Virgin Islands, and off Bermuda, tending submarines. She continued this duty until she entered the Charleston (S.C.) Navy Yard, where she was decommissioned on March 24, 1919.

13

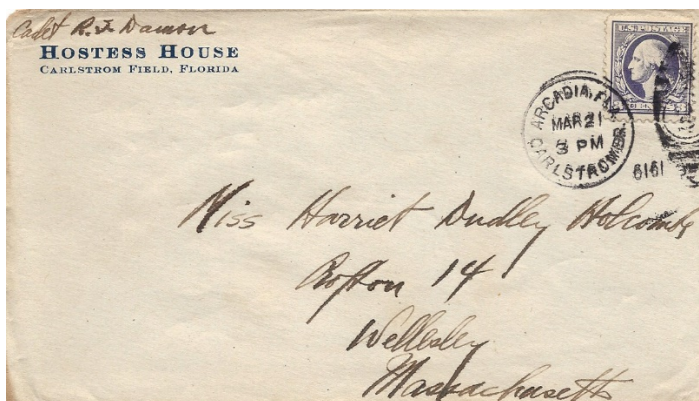**USS Warrington** commissioned February 9, 1938, sank September 13, 1944, in a hurricane off the Bahamas.
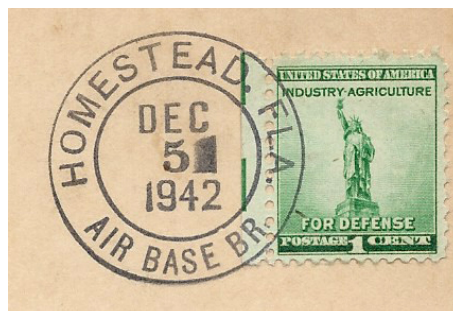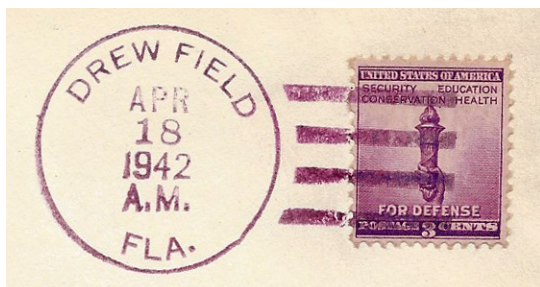
PART FOUR
AIR FIELDS

BARTOW FLA. AIR BASE BR. -- Established 07/20/1943, discontinued 07/31/1947.
BARTOW AIR FIELD, BARTOW AIR BASE. -- Established 12/10/1951 as Bartow Air Field;
changed name to Bartow Air Base 09/16/1956; Discontinued 03/01/1961.

BOCA RATON FIELD -- Established 10/16/1942, Discontinued 11/30/1947.

CARLSTROM FIELD BR., ARCIADIA -- Established 1918, Discontinued 1920. Duplex
handstamps is 03/21/1919. Military Post Maining 06/15/1942.

DREW FILED FLA. (TAMPA) -- Established 01/01/1942, Discontinued 01/31/1946.
HOMESTEAD, FLA. AIR BASE BR. -- Established 12/01/1942, Discontinued 12/31/1945.
Established as Homestead Air Force Base 12/05/1955.

LAKELAND, FLA. ORANGE FIELD BR. -- 09/04/1943.

MIAMI AIR MAIL FIELD -- 01/11/1934.

MARIANNA, FLA. ADVANCED FLYING SCHOOL BR. -- Established 10/19/1942,
Discontinued 12/31/1945.
MILTON, FLA. NAVY 10150 BR. -- 11/04/1943.

ORLANDO, FLA, AIR BASE -- Established 11/16/1940 as Air Base Br. Orlando. Changed name to
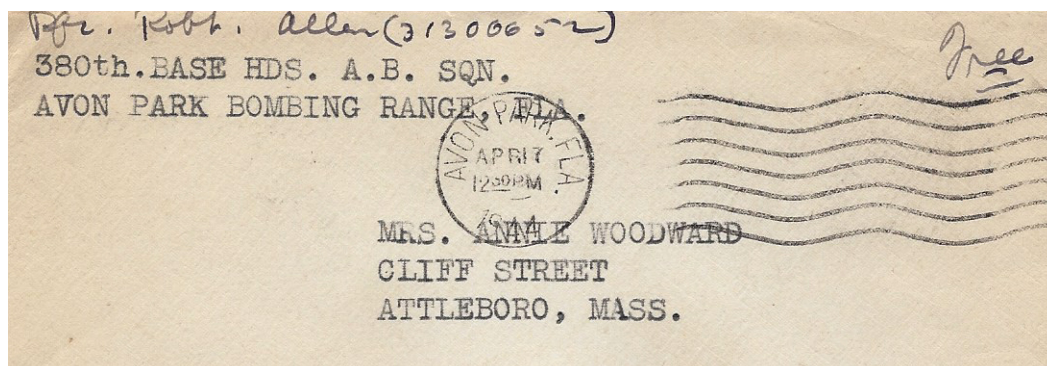Orlando Air Base 9/1/1941, Discontinued 03/15/1943.

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, FLA. -- Established 03/01/1952.

SEBRING, FLA AIR BASE BR. -- Established 10/06/1941, Discontinued 12/31/1945.
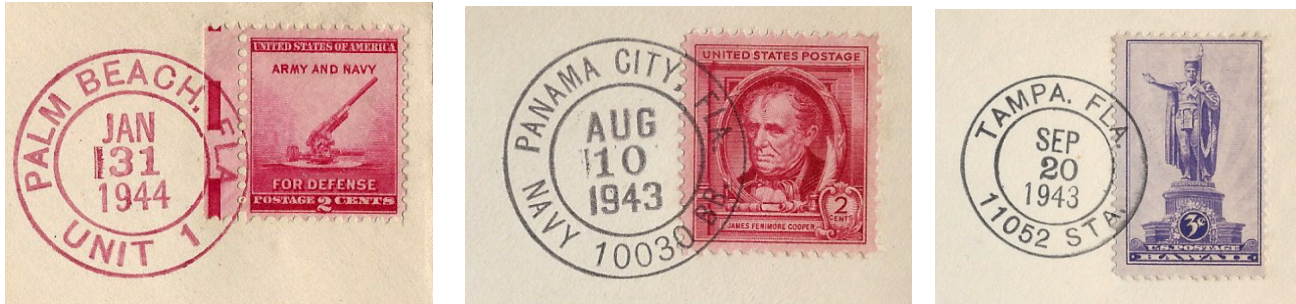

TALLAHASSEE, FLA. MABRY AIR BASE BR. -- Established 02/01/1941, name changed to
Dale Mabry Field Br. 09/01/1941, Discontinued 07/31/1947

AVON PARK, FLA BOMBING RANGE BR. -- Established 12/10/1942, Discontinued 10/31/1945

PART FIVE
MISCELLANEOUS HANDSTAMPS

PALM BEACH FLA. UNIT 1. -- Used January and Febrary 1944.

PANAMA CITY FLA. NAVY BR. 10030 -- Section Base, Established 03/23/1943, Discontinued 01/20/1944

TAMPA FLA. STA. **11052** – Captain of the Post, Established 07/01/1943, Discontinued 09/29/1945

PENSACOLA, FLA. NAVY BR. (Known Handstamps in black and purple)
10067 – Auxiliary Air Station – Corry Field; Established 03/15/1943; Discontinued 12/31/1945
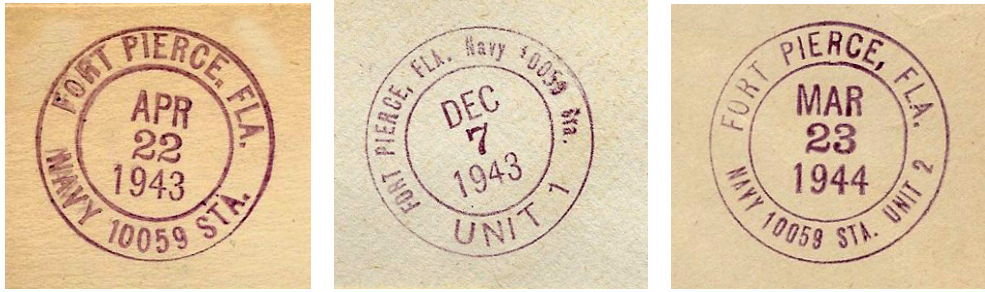10068 – Cadet Barracks, NAS Pensacola; Established 05/15/1943, Discontinued 12/31/1945
10069 -- Auxiliary Air Station – Ellyson Field; Established 05/15/1943, Discontinued 01/01/1946
10070 -- Auxiliary Air Station – Saufley Field; Established 05/15/1943, Discontinued 12/31/1945
10071 -- Auxiliary Air Station – Barin Field; Established 05/15/1943, Discontinued 12/31/1945
10072 -- Auxiliary Air Station – Bronson Field; Established 05/15/1943, Discontinued 12/31/1945
10137 – Naval Air Station, Pensacola Florida; Established 05/15/1943, Discontinued 12/31/1945

FORT PIERCE, FLA. NAVY STA. 10059 – Amphibious Training Base – Established 02/25/1943; Discontinued 01/31/1946

FORT PIERCE, FLA. NAVY STA. UNIT 1 -- Established 05/15/1943, Discontinued 01/31/1946

FORT PIERCE, FLA. NAVY STA. UNIT 2 -- Established 10/20/1943, Discontinued 01/31/1946

Source:

1. Carter, Russ. 2003. *Numbered Navy & Marine Corps Post Office Locations*, *7th Edition - Vol. 3*, Military Post Office Society.   This book starts with an introduction to the Navy and Marine Corps postal coded numbering systems, followed by a detailed listing of Navy Post Office numbers, then by the Branch numbers used by the Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Corps, and finally a listing of the Marine Corps Unit numbers that were used early in WW II. The Navy Number Listings (pages 11 – 244) are organized by number, for example 10000, 20000. etc. All numbers 10000 and greater are assumed to be BRANCH (BR.) unless specifically listed as a STATION (STA.).

2. Bradbury, Alford G and E. Story Hallock, 1962, *A Chronology of Florida Post Offices, Handbook No. 2*, published by the Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs.