A Complete History Of The Iberia Naval Air Station

A multi-million dollar U. S. Naval Auxiliary Air Station under the command of Captain Francis R. Sanborn is located three miles northwest of New Iberia on Highway 90. The Station was commissioned on March 1, 1960, and is completely modern in all respects. The original plan for the Naval Station in 1955 called for a major jet training base. However, the mission of NAAS New Iberia is to "maintain and operate facilities and provide services and material to support operations of aviation activities and units of the Naval Air Training Command and other activities and units as designated by the Chief of Naval Operations."

Complete cooperation in all community affairs is experienced at all levels between the air station and the surrounding community. The Naval Auxiliary Air Station has found a home. Complete co-operation in all community affairs is experienced at all levels between the air station and the surrounding community. The naval personnel of New Iberia are proud to be a part of this hospitable community of New Iberia, Louisiana. Under this lease agreement, the parish can operate this airport for the use of civilian aircraft utilizing their own support facilities, but using the Navy runway and operation facilities.

Of special interest in the design of the Station is the fact that the foundations of all the buildings are extended some 25 feet below the surface to bearing strata. Also an extensive drainage system had to be incorporated because of the flat wet land. Due to the semi-tropical humid climate, all the major buildings are air conditioned. The buildings themselves are of permanent type concrete and masonry frame construction.

THE AIR station boundaries encompass an area of 4,350 acres. This land area is large enough to permit traffic patterns at the air station to remain mostly within the boundaries and also provides ample room for expansion should military necessity dictate.

Included in this land complex is a small airport which was acquired from the Parish of Iberia and which has been leased back to the parish under the authority as ATU-402 and was based at the Secretory of the Navy. Under this lease agreement, the parish can operate this airport for the use of civilian aircraft utilizing their own support facilities, but using the Navy runway and operation facilities.

RECREATION activities abound the base for the men include a recreation building which houses a bowling alley, a pool room, and an aviation library. In addition, a small artifical lake located aboard the station is utilized for survival training and is stocked with fish for fishing. These recreational facilities along with a driving range and planned hobby shop help to maintain the high morale of the men stationed here.

In this hospitable community of New Iberia, the Naval Auxiliary Air Station has found a home. Complete co-operation in all community affairs is experienced at all levels between the air station and the surrounding community. The naval personnel of New Iberia are proud to be a part of this community.

ON commissioning day, March 5, 1960, more than 35,000 local citizens jammed the base to observe the commissioning ceremonies. Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Arleigh A. Burke, dedicated the base and the famed Blue Angels were on hand to add their spectacular contribution to the ceremonies.

Kingsville, Texas. Naval students reporting to New Iberia for advanced flight training have completed 9 months of basic flight training at Pensacola, Fla. At NAAS New Iberia, under Training Squadron 27, the student is given a 16 week course of intensive drainage system had to be incorporated because of the flat wet land. Due to the semi-tropical humid climate, all the major buildings are air conditioned. The buildings themselves are of permanent type concrete and masonry frame construction.


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