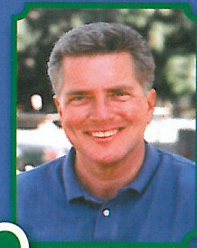


# California's Communities



by  
Huell  
Howser

## Closed Military Base Comes Back to Life

It's one of the most important and historic places in our state. It's also a place filled with memories because during the 70 years it was in operation over 1¼ million men and women were stationed there. I'm talking about the Naval Training Center (NTC) San Diego, which was a hustling, bustling place from 1923 to 1997.

As far as the U.S. Navy was concerned, NTC was not only a boot camp for basic training, but also a home for many advanced naval schools. So it came as a surprise when, as part of the nationwide base closures, NTC San Diego was on the list – and did, in fact, shut down all military activities in April 1997.

That closure presented a big question mark – and a big opportunity for the redevelopment folks in San Diego. And what they ended up doing after a long and thoughtful decision process – including lots of input from the local community – is one of the most successful redevelopment projects not only in California, but the entire nation.

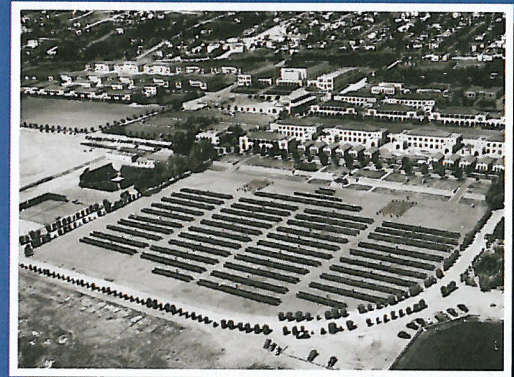
I spent a full day touring the old NTC facilities – now known as Liberty Station – and I was blown away! They've saved, restored, and readapted all the classic beautiful old Navy buildings while at the same time they've added new homes, retail shopping areas, schools, and parks. There's even an entire district devoted to the arts, music, and dance.

Today, the old NTC San Diego is a vibrant, exciting community filled with life and is a testament to the very best redevelopment can be. Congratulations to the City of San Diego Redevelopment Agency, the developer, Corky McMillin Companies, and the good citizens of San Diego for doing it right!

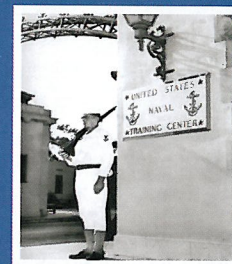
P.S. - The next time you're in San Diego, stop by and see Liberty Station for yourself – trust me, you'll be impressed. And if you're not able to see it in person – check out this episode of *California's Communities* on your local PBS affiliate or streaming online at the CRA homepage, [www.calredevelop.org](http://www.calredevelop.org).

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Episodes can be viewed online by clicking the  
*California's Communities* link on CRA's homepage.  
(requires a high speed connection)



Aerial shot of the Naval Training Station showing thousands of sailors on the parade ground.



Sailor standing guard at Naval Training Center entrance.



Posing with the good folks at Liberty Station.