



Welcome to the New Jersey National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt, New Jersey.

On behalf of Brigadier General Lisa J. Hou, D.O., The Adjutant General, and my staff, I wish to welcome you to the National Guard Training Center (NGTC), Sea Girt, New Jersey. First, let me provide a little background and history on this site.

The New Jersey Army National Guard traces its roots in the Militia Act passed by the first New Jersey General Assembly in 1668. The act required able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 60 to serve in the local militia. Penalties for noncompliance were high.

The Militia Act was refined over the next century as military requirements dictated. Militiamen, sometimes called Minutemen, supplied their own weapons and uniforms, and often trained on the village green or at the home of the Company Commander, whose house often served as a rallying point in times of trouble. The colonial militia defended settlements against Indian attacks and assisted in repelling the French invasions from Canada. The New Jersey Colonial Militia participated in several joint British-Colonial excursions into Canada; they served in King George’s War (1746-48) and in the French and Indian War (1756-63).

The militia organizational predecessor of the modern New Jersey Army National Guard became a state force under command of the Governor and authorized by an Act of the Provincial Congress on June 3, 1775. This Act established the regular militia authorized by the General Assembly prior to the Revolutionary War. In 1776, the Minuteman force was dissolved and incorporated into the regular militia due to the high enlistment rate of New Jersey patriots into the Continental Army by the summer of 1776. During the Revolutionary War, the New Jersey Militia supplied Continental Army troops, suppressed Loyalist uprisings, and harassed British supply lines, making it impossible for British supply wagons to travel in the former colony without armed escorts.

The history of the National Guard Training Center (NGTC) begins with Commodore Robert Stockton. “Having recently returned from his adventures in the Mexican War as a hero”, he purchased the original tract of approximately 120 acres in 1853 for \$15,000.00. The Commodore built Stockton Mansion, which later became a part of the Beach House and original summer headquarters near the beach. In 1866, the Commodore sold the property for property development, and in 1870 the Sea Girt Land Improvement Company acquired the property.

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To help prepare for wars, the permanent training camp for the National Guard of New Jersey was established as Camp Sea Girt in 1884 by the Quartermaster General of New Jersey, Lewis Perrine. General Perrine entered into an agreement with the Sea Girt Land Company to purchase a track of land to construct a permanent camp, rifle range, and a sea coast battery at this site between the community of Sea Girt to the north and Manasquan to the south. In 1887, the state legislature appointed James Smith of Newark and William L. Dayton of Trenton as commissioners to complete the purchase of 120 acres for the camp at a cost of \$50,912.00 “lawful money of the United States.” In 1907, two additional tracts of land were purchased for \$23,900.00 in order to extend the ranges adjacent to the beach, bringing the site to approximately 168 acres. The property was easily accessible via the New York and Long Branch Railroad, which was extended from Long Branch, New Jersey, and South to Sea Girt, and on to Bay Head, New Jersey, in the 1870s.

A summer headquarters for the Governor and the Military Board was recommended in the Quartermaster General’s Report of 1902, “The necessity for a new headquarters house for the accommodation of the Governor’ and staff is urgently recommended”

Therefore, in 1905, the legislature appropriated \$15,000.00 for the removal of the Governor’s Residence from the New Jersey exhibit at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis in 1904. A year later the Governor’s residence was rebuilt at Sea Girt adjacent to Sea Girt Avenue and designated as the original Quarters #1.

Since these early days of New Jersey through the 21st Century, New Jersey units of soldiers and airmen have proudly served in every major conflict that the United States has been committed to win. Many units were mobilized at Sea Girt for WWI and fewer units during WWII, as Fort Dix became the major mobilization site during the 1940’s.

Over the years the name has changed from Camp Sea Girt, to Governor’s names like Camp Edge. Today it is known as the New Jersey National Guard Training Center. But, the primary mission of the site has not changed from training soldiers and airmen of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard.

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The 168-acre NGTC may seem small in nature and landlocked by residential developments, but it is sited on some of the best coastal beaches in East coast and easily accessible from the major road networks that traverse New Jersey.

The NGTC primarily provides classroom and weapons range training. The majority of the training for the New Jersey National Guard, other Reserve Components and active military forces is focused on leadership through the 254th Regiment Officers Candidate Schools and Non-commissioned Officer Schools, as well as selected enlisted military occupational skill courses.

Training capabilities are supported by new Regional Training Institute (RTI) complex consisting of eleven classrooms, auditorium, offices, and a 72 room billets. The NGTC offers a 48 covered firing point range that can accommodate small arms, rifle, shotgun and machine gun firing. The NGTC also houses the New Jersey State Police Academy, the Department of Corrections Academy, the Division of Criminal Justice Academy, and the Juvenile Justice Academy. Further, the New Jersey State Police Crime Lab, the New Jersey Militia Museum, and several National Guard units and support facilities are located on NGTC. Further, several local and federal agencies, e.g. Federal Bureau of Investigations, Alcohol Tobacco and Fire Arms, and Drug Enforcement Agency, conduct training and weapons firing on the NGTC.

Finally, I want to thank you for visiting and staying with us. I encourage you to take advantage of the post beaches, the museum, and other amenities; as well as the surrounding communities.

**COL (Ret) Daniel Dreher
Superintendent**