

CAMP DAVIS TIME LINE

1940-1948

- December 1940 Construction begins to build Anti-aircraft artillery training facility near Holly Ridge, North Carolina. Proposed cost \$16,800,000. Colonel James Crawford named camp's executive officer.
- April 1941 First 2,050 troops arrive at Camp Davis, from Fort Bragg. Training begins at Camp Davis for the Army's new Barrage Balloon School and Coast Artillery Regiment.
- May 1941 Civilian construction workers on base number 17,254. Army's only black 155 mm gun unit arrives from Texas. Camp Davis becomes Army property; initial construction contracts completed. Supplemental construction includes recreation facilities for black troops.
- June 1941 Barrage Balloon School arrives. First camp movie theatre building opens.
- July 1941 Army announces Camp Davis to be named in honor of Major General Pearson Davis; noted West Point instructor, Commander of Coast Defenses of San Francisco, and Distinguished Service Medal recipient.
- August 1941 General Frederic Smith assumes command of Camp Davis. Camp Davis reaches twenty thousand troops.
- December 1941 Pearl Harbor attack precipitates United States entrance into World War II.
- January 1942 Barrage Balloon School transferred to Camp Tyson, Tennessee.
- March 1942 Anti-aircraft Artillery School opens at Camp Davis. Camp Davis has the distinction of being the only post with three principal elements:
- Army's new Barrage Balloon School
 - Seacoast Defense
 - Anti-aircraft artillery (AAA) training
- April 1943 Off-site firing ranges are located at Fort Fisher, Sears Landing, and Maple Hill. Camp newspaper, *The AA Barrage* begins publication.
- May 1943 First WAACs (Women's Army Auxiliary Corps) arrive at Camp Davis.

July 1943	First seventeen-week Officers Candidate School (OCS) class graduates. British No. 1 Composite AAA Demonstration Battery visits the base.
Summer 1943	WASPs (Women's Airforce Service Pilots) arrive at Camp Davis airfield.
September 1943	Anti-tank rifled grenade course completed. Camp Davis Blue Brigade football team defeats Wake Forest team.
March 1944	Five hundred German POW's arrive at Camp Davis stockade. POW's worked both on base and for local and government projects.
May 1944	Anti-aircraft Artillery OCS graduates last class; OCS suspended.
August 1944	Camp Davis troops aid local people after an active Atlantic hurricane season.
September 1944	Official announcement of closing Camp Davis. AAA School to move to Fort Bliss, Texas .
Fall 1944	Disassembly and auctioning of camp buildings and materials begins.
January 1945	Army halts dismantling of camp, stops surplus sales. Camp Davis reactivated as Army Air Force Redistribution and Convalescent Center.
July 1945	Air Force center ceases operation. Camp Davis turned the base over to the U.S. Marines Corp for training and as a separation center.
June 1946	U.S. Navy acquires Camp Davis and Topsail Island ranges for a ram-jet testing program named "Operation Bumblebee"
Late 1947-1948	"Operation Bumblebee" ended the ram-jet testing program in 1948. Camp Davis dismantled and surplused.
21 st Century	Few remnants of the former base are visible due to dismantling, subsequent development and vegetation growth. Currently, the Marine Corps uses portions for training and utilizes the original airstrip.