



## Five Military Flags Over *Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area*

All five branches of the United States military have served on the property that now comprises the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area (JILONA).

The **US Army** established Fort Jupiter Military Reservation in 1838; an 1854 presidential order detached 61.5 acres to create Jupiter Lighthouse Reservation. Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee surveyed the Florida coast, including Jupiter Inlet, in 1849 to record possible locations for forts and lighthouses. In 1854, Lt. George Meade – Army Topographic Engineer and head of the 7th Lighthouse District – selected the site of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and created its original design. Lt. William Reynolds succeeded Meade, improving the lighthouse's design and managing its troubled early construction during and after the Third Seminole War. Maj. Hartman Bache succeeded Reynolds and dispatched Edward A. Yorke with the supplies and workers necessary to finish the lighthouse's construction in 1860. The Army Signal Corps established a weather observation site at the Jupiter Inlet in 1879. The Signal Corps added a telegraph connection to the rest of the country in 1887; it was this station that the USS Oregon contacted upon safely arriving from her famous journey from the Pacific at the beginning of the Spanish-American War. The weather station and signal station became part of the new US Weather Bureau in the 1890s – the forerunner of today's NOAA and National Weather Service.

The **US Navy** established Jupiter Wireless Telegraph Station just west of the lighthouse in 1905. In 1929, the Navy acquired additional property to establish Supplementary Radio Station Jupiter. The station broadcast weather information and monitored distress calls from ships and aircraft. In 1939-1940, the radio station expanded and added new mission: listening for German submarine (U-boat) radio traffic. Codenamed *Station J*, this station played a vital role in protecting merchant shipping during World War II. The Navy decommissioned Station J in July 1945 and transferred it to the Coast Guard. Station J's last surviving building - the Married Men's Quarters - is now home to the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Museum.

Due to secret nature of Station J, the **US Marine Corps** provided security beginning in August 1942 and continued for most of the rest of World War II.

In 1939, the US Lighthouse Service became part of the **US Coast Guard**. In addition to serving as lighthouse keepers until the automation of Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse in 1987, the Coast Guard also continued operation of a Morse code radio beacon in the 1940s and used the lighthouse as a lookout station during World War II. The Coast Guard operated a LORAN tower on the north side of Bridge Road in 1962. The tower soon moved to Jonathan Dickinson State Park, but Coast Guard Station Jupiter Inlet continued to provide housing for the LORAN personnel, lighthouse keepers, and additional housing for Coast Guard Station Lake Worth. A Coast Guard Exchange (CGX) still operates on the site.

The **US Air Force** operated Jupiter Auxiliary Air Force Base on the north side of Beach Road from 1950 to 1954. The base monitored launches from Cape Canaveral. Jonathan Dickinson Missile Tracking Annex, a successor to JAAFB built in 1987, is visible from top of the lighthouse.