



Five Military Flags Over JILONA

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 **Army** established Fort Jupiter Military Reservation in 1855, encompassing modern Jupiter and Tequesta, except for 61.5 acres set aside the year before to create Jupiter Lighthouse Reservation. In 1854, Lt. George Meade – Army Topographic Engineer and 7th Lighthouse District Engineer – selected the site of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and created its original design. Lt. William Reynolds succeeded Meade, improving the lighthouse's design. 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 operated Jupiter Weather Bureau & Signal Station just east of the lighthouse starting in 1888, connected to the rest of the country via a Signal Corps telegraph. It was this station that the *USS Oregon* contacted at the end of her famous journey from the Pacific at the beginning of the Spanish-American War. The Weather Bureau became a civilian organization in 1891 – the forerunner of today's NOAA and National Weather Service.

The **Navy** established Jupiter Wireless Telegraph Station just west of the lighthouse in 1905. Early on this was primarily a communication station. Later it broadcast weather information, monitored distress calls from ships and aircraft, and had a radio compass as a navigational aid. In 1939-1940, the radio station expanded and took on a new mission: naval intelligence. Codenamed Station J, it intercepted radio messages from German submarines (U-boats), both taking directional fixes for location and transcribing the encrypted messages. Station J also monitored other radio traffic to help track ship movements and catch any collaboration between neutral nations and the Germans. Station J played a vital role in protecting merchant shipping during World War II. In July 1945, the Navy transferred Station J 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 **Marine Corps** provided security from August 1942 until July 1945.

In 1939, the Lighthouse Service became part of the **Coast Guard**. In addition to serving as lighthouse keepers until the automation of Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse in 1987, the Coast Guard used the lighthouse as a lookout station during World War II and operated the former Station J until 1947. The site also provided family housing for nearby Coast Guard stations including Loran Station Jupiter and the search & rescue stations in Riviera Beach and Fort Pierce). The local Coast Guard Auxiliary used to meet on site and a Coast Guard Exchange (CGX) operated on site from the 1970s until 2019.

The **Air Force** established Jupiter Auxiliary Air Force Base in 1951, with tracking facilities on the north side of Beach Road and personnel housed at the former Station J. The base tracked missile test launches from Cape Canaveral as part of the Atlantic or Eastern Missile Range. In 1954, the USAF contracted operation and maintenance of the range to civilians. The site's successor, Jonathan Dickinson Missile Tracking Annex (established in the 1980s), is visible from top of the lighthouse.