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CHRONOLOGY

20 November 1944 - NAVAL AIR BASE, Navy Number 3247, was commissioned, taking over all the personnel and equipment of ACORN THIRTY NINE and part of the personnel and equipment of ACORN THIRTY FIVE. ACORN THIRTY NINE was decommissioned simultaneously. The Commanding Officer of ACORN THIRTY NINE, Commander Clark BUCKNAM, (A3)L, USNR, of Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts, assumed command of the NAVAL AIR BASE.

Attention is invited to the history of ACORN THIRTY NINE previously submitted which contains thumb-nail biographies of the key personnel of the NAVAL AIR BASE who were formerly with ACORN THIRTY NINE.

At the date of commissioning there were a total of three hundred and forty-eight (348) officers and two thousand six hundred and eight (2,608) enlisted personnel aboard at the NAVAL AIR BASE as shown by the strength report, which total includes CASU FORTY FOUR, CBMU FIVE NINE SEVEN, and squadrons aboard.

- 1 December 1944 - Taxiways and an absolute minimum of hardstands for operations were completed.
- 26 December 1944 - Condition red at 2006. CASU service area bombed by enemy aircraft.
- 10 January 1945 - First squadron of Privateers of VPB 118 arrived.
- 11 January 1945 - Vice Admiral John A. HOOVER, Commander Forward Area, Central Pacific, visited the base.
- 17 January 1945 - VPB 111 departed for Leyte.
- 25 January 1945 - Mine Assembly Depot #4, in the charge of Lieutenant W. S. GRIGSBY, USN, arrived on the island with four (4) officers and seventy five (75) enlisted personnel, and was placed under the administrative control of this command.
- 28 January 1945 - Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Aviation, Artemus GATES, and Vice Admiral John A. HOOVER, Commander Forward Area, Central Pacific, visited the base.
- 10 February 1945 - Special precautions were taken because of Empire Day in Japan, 11 February. Guards and sentries were doubled. No incidents occurred however. Extra precautions secured, 13 February.