



South Florida's Railroad Museum & Military Museum/Memorial

The Naval Air Station Richmond (NAS) in South Florida, 18 miles south of Miami, is where we start this photo program on how the land was used and what became of it. In September 1, 1942, The U.S. Navy purchased 2,000 acres for a blimp base. It became Richmond NAS. The base had 17 large wooden hangers, the largest number of blimp hangars than other blimp-based stations in the country. It saw action during World War II. (See flashbackmiami.com for a historical perspective.)

As in other parts of South Florida, a hurricane on September 15, 1945 hit the area. It caused a fire and destroyed several hangers and hundreds of equipment including the blimps. The station was decommissioned after WWII. The University of Miami leased the decommissioned station to accommodate veterans with classrooms and housing for 1,100 students.

Since WWII, the land has seen a variety of uses. In 1956, the railroad tracks on the base became part of the Gold Coast Railroad Museum. It was also used by the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) under a company known as "Zenith Technology Services." Between 1962 and 1968 the CIA tracked Fidel Castro's government in Cuba known as

JM/WAVE or WAVE STATION.

In 1970, the University of Miami left the base. Dade County deeded 1,000 acres for a new zoo, now known as Zoo Miami. The remainder of the land over the coming decades was used for commercial and housing development and the Gold Coast Railroad Museum and Miami Military Museum and Memorial adjacent to the Zoo acreage.

Unfortunately, when the photo program photography was done, the Gold Coast Railroad Museum and Miami Military Museum and Memorial were closed. Zoo Miami was open and has its own photo program.



Gold Coast Railroad Museum area



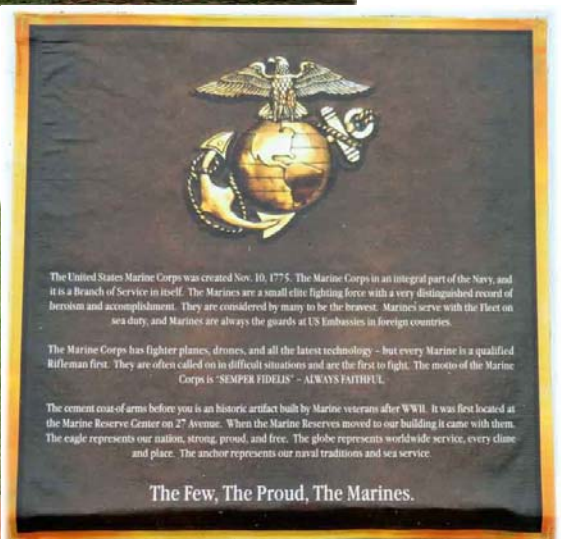
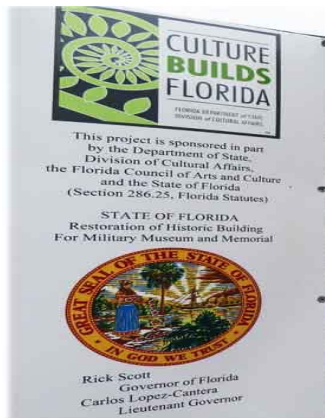


Miami Military Museum and Memorial

MISSION: "The Miami Military Museum & Memorial exists to preserve the rich military heritage of south Florida, and to educating the young about the service, sacrifices and accomplishments of our Armed Forces and Veterans.

We welcome the entire community; black, white, Hispanic; young and old alike."

As of December 2018, the building was being refurbished. Go to the miamimilitarymuseum.com for updates.





Sources: <https://www.goldcoastrailroadmuseum.org/>, <http://blog.nasflmuseum.com/events-blog/category/nas%20richmond>,
<http://www.miamimilitarymuseum.com/home.html>, <https://nonprofits.miamifoundation.org/profile/friends-of-the-military-museum-of-south-florida-at-nas-richmond-inc> and <http://flashbackmiami.com/2014/01/16/richmond-blimp-base-2/>.

acuri.net John R. Vincenti Florida's Gold Coast Railroad Museum & Miami Military Museum & Memorial