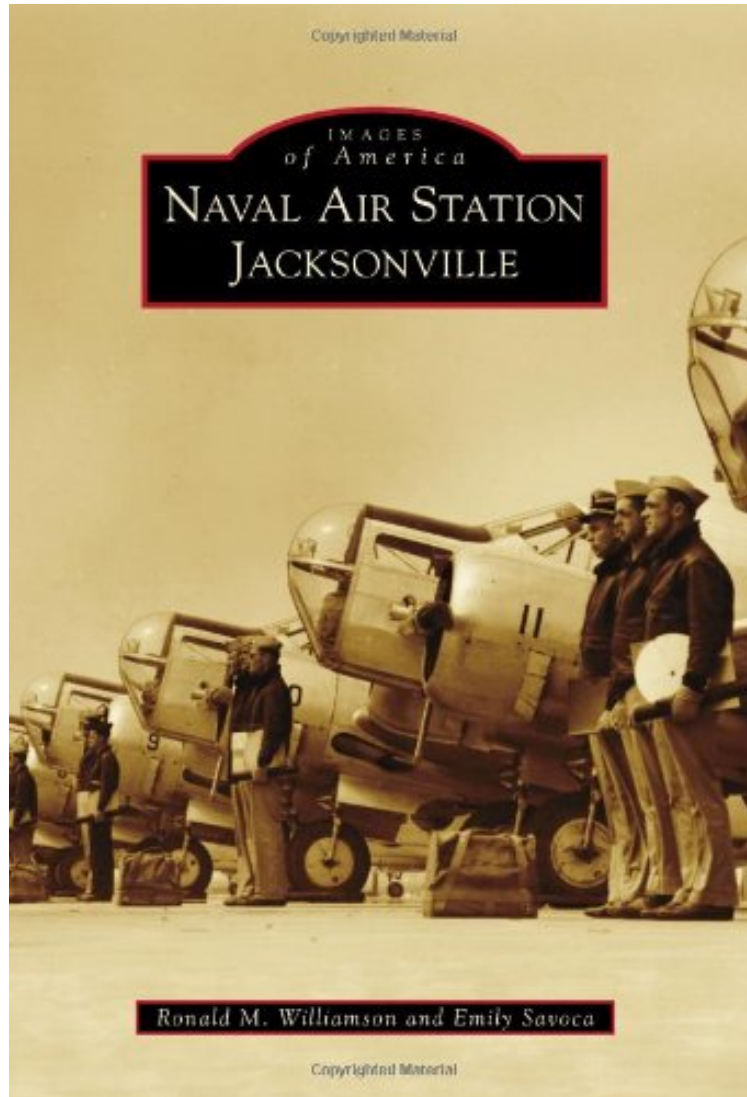


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Ronald M. Williamson, Emily Savoca

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Naval Air Station Jacksonville was commissioned on October 15, 1940, and has trained tens of thousands of naval aviators throughout its long history. Located along the banks of the St. Johns River, the site and the weather conditions make the base a premier aviation facility. Initially conducting primary and sea-plane training, it expanded to training pilots in almost every type of aircraft the Navy has flown. The Navy's elite precision aviators, the Blue Angels, were formed at the base in 1946. Today, as a master antisubmarine base, it remains home to 15 aviation squadrons; some 115 tenant commands and almost 20,000 military, civilian, and contract employees work at the station daily.

About the Author Ron Williamson has authored two earlier books on aviation history and serves as the NAS Jacksonville safety officer and unofficial historian. Emily Savoca, Naval Station Mayport fitness coordinator, has written numerous papers and collects historical items related to that base. Starting with just a few documents and photographs in 1989, the NAS Jacksonville historical files are now full of rare original photographs, records, and artifacts, such as early squadron patches. Most of the photographs in this publication are previously unpublished and provide a wealth of historical information.