

NEWPORT NAVALOG



VOL. 108

U.S. NAVAL TRAINING STATION, NEWPORT, R.I. – FRIDAY, JULY 25, 2008

NO. 30

Navy Newport: then and now

**The Newport Navalog
today publishes a special issue
retracing the origin and growth of
the Navy in Newport.
Story, Page 2**



Naval War College Museum archives photo

HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED — A sentry stands guard at his guard shack at the entrance to Naval Training Station Newport in 1889. Founder's Hall, background, the former Newport Asylum for the Poor, is now the Naval War College Museum, overlooking Dewey Field. At lower left is now the Naval Station Newport Marina.



NJROTC here for training

Area Four Leadership Academy puts 144 NJROTC cadets through their paces at Naval Station Newport.

— Page 10



450 expected to swim bay

The annual Citizens Bank/Save the Bay Swim expects to draw about 450 swimmers tomorrow morning to Dewey Field.

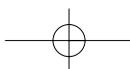
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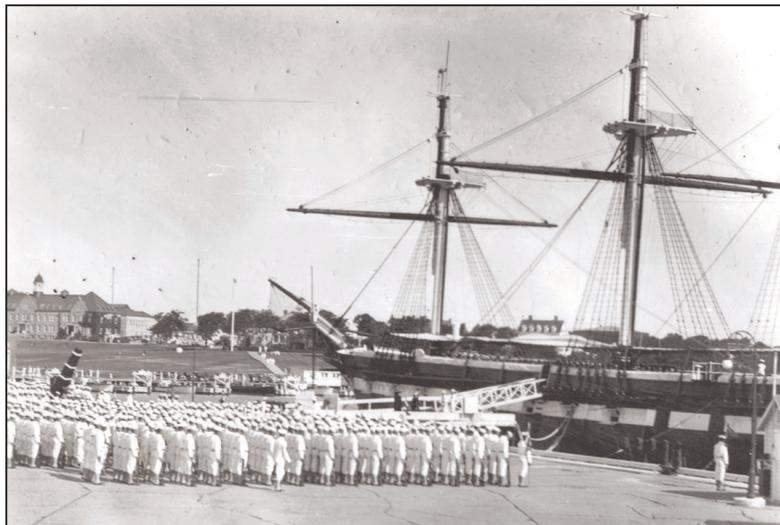
USS Ross pays visit

The USS Ross stops at Pier 2, Naval Station Newport, to pick up about 50 Navy family members for a 'tiger' cruise to Norfolk.

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Navy Newport History



Recruit trainees muster at the brow to the frigate USS Constellation in 1944. The Constellation, built in the 1790s after the Revolutionary War and sister to the USS Constitution 'Old Ironsides' in Boston, was at Naval Training Station Newport from 1894 to 1933.



A BUST of famed continental navy Capt. John Paul Jones stands in the Naval War College Museum. Jones, who sailed his 12-gun sloop Providence (formerly the Katy) against British warships in Narragansett Bay in 1776, is considered the most famous U.S. naval hero of the American Revolution.



The former Newport Asylum for the Poor, built on 1822, is the lone building overlooking the current Dewey Field, left, and Coasters' Harbor, foreground, current site of the Naval Station Newport Marina. In 1884 it became the first building of the Naval War College and is now the Naval War College Museum.

Hear ye, hear ye, Navy history buffs: This is your issue

This issue of *The Newport Navalog* is a look back at the history of the Navy in Newport — a rich and storied history that predates the colonists and the British. Our presence has ebbed and flowed through the years, depending on the state of the world, but the Navy and Newport have always been joined.

Some truly incredible innovations in warfare have been designed and tested here; leaders have been educated and honed here; and memories made here.

Volumes have been written about the historic significance of decisions made within the walls of commands onboard Naval Station Newport. Books have been written about the impact of the Navy in Newport.

There is no shortage of historical information out there for the curious to peruse. The Naval War College Museum is a wonderful place to spend an afternoon looking into our past. Our goal with this issue is not to delve into the details, but to perhaps plant the seed for further investigation or simply to illicit the comment "umm, I didn't know that."

For all of you history buffs out there — or even those among you with a moderate level of healthy curiosity — this

issue is for you. Enjoy the journey into our past.

— *Naval Station Newport Public Affairs*

Naval Station Newport — a historical retrospective

A large portion of this article was reprinted from a May 5, 1989, issue of *The Newport Navalog*. It was written by Richard K. Alexander, editor

Early Navy connection

Newport's first settlers were Nicholas Easton and his son, Peter, who explored Aquidneck Island in April 1639. Though the Navy did not establish a firm presence in Newport until the Civil War, Newport had a rudimentary naval defense in the mid-1600s.

According to *A Portrait of Newport* by Leonard J. Panaggio of Newport, William Brenton, owner of land that constitutes Brenton Point and the area around Fort Adams, set up a four gun battery to protect his property in 1641. At about the same time Newport provided a small armed boat to warn of any unwelcomed strangers.

As it has been demonstrated throughout American history the birth and growth of the U.S. Navy precipitated from oppression or war.

HISTORY, Page 3

Navalog

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Navy Newport History

History

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After the English won the Seven Years' War in Europe (1756-1763) and the French and Indian War (1754-1763) its coffers were depleted. To generate revenue it looked to the colonies. King George ordered the enforcement of the Navigation Act passed by Parliament in the 1660s, and the infamous Stamp Act of 1765, which the colonies protested as "taxation without representation."

Rhode Island petitioned Congress to establish an armed naval force, to which Congress reluctantly agreed in 1775. In 1776 the Second Continental Congress declared the colony's independence.

Two of the earliest naval heroes who challenged the British fleet in Narragansett Bay were Commodore Esek Hopkins, who became the first commander-in-chief of the continental navy; and John Paul Jones, whose first naval command was the sloop Providence, formerly the Katy.

Lull in Navy activity

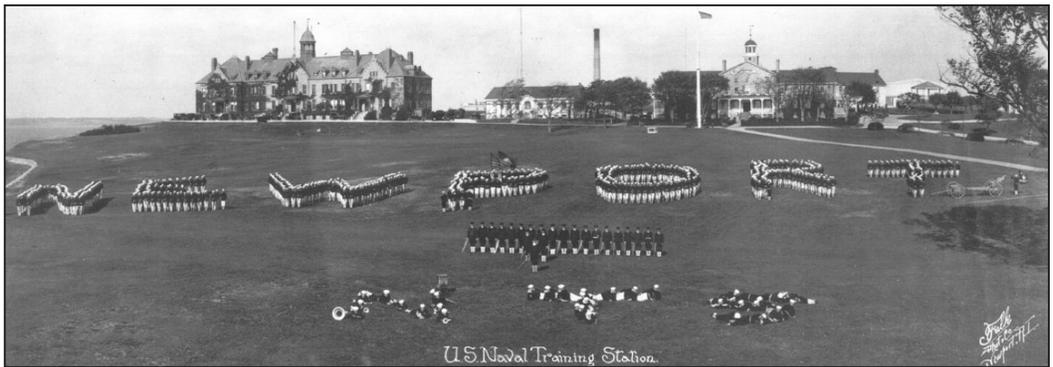
There is little mention of the naval activity in Narragansett Bay from 1781 to 1789, because there was little or no Navy to speak of.

But in the 1790s three U.S. frigates were launched – the USS United States, the USS Constellation and the USS Constitution. The Constellation became a Navy recruit training ship in Newport even into the 1940s; and the Constitution, or "Old Ironsides," is berthed in Boston where it remains a tourist attraction. They were used against the French who were raiding U.S. shipping.

Fort Adams was christened after President John Adams in 1799, but construction on the fortifications to protect New-



TENT CITY — Recruits pull field artillery through tent quarters and walk sentry lines on Coasters' Harbor Island, Naval Training Station Newport, about 1889. The tents were pitched approximately where Luce Hall, Naval War College, was constructed in 1890-191.



Navy seaman apprentices spell out 'Newport — NTS' (Naval Training Station) on the lawn of Dewey Field in 1923. The three buildings, from left, are Luce Hall of the Naval War College; the Communications Station (built in 1917); and Training Station Headquarters, currently home of the Naval War College Museum.

port Harbor from invasion from sea didn't begin until 1825.

Civil War era impact

To keep it from Confederate control, Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles ordered the U.S. Naval Academy relocated to Newport in 1881. It relocated to Newport in April 1861 with the first group of midshipmen **HISTORY, Page 4**



SAILORS in Yeoman School, ca. 1915, get training as 'clerks of the Navy service.' One division is trained for attending to correspondence, files, and papers pertaining to matters of military law; the other for keeping the accounts of the service, ca. 1915, Naval Training Station, Newport.

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Navy Newport History

History

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arriving onboard the Constitution. Classes convened in May of that year with the Academy remaining in Newport through July 1865.

The quest for underwater weapon superiority

In 1869 the Secretary of War authorized the Navy to establish an experimental torpedo station on Goat Island. The forerunner to the current Naval Underwater Systems Center (now the Naval Undersea Warfare Center), its mission was to develop torpedoes and torpedo equipment, explosives and electrical equipment.

By World War II it was the biggest industrial employer in Rhode Island, running round-the-clock. In 1944 there were nearly 13,000 civilians and 1,127 military personnel employed at the Goat Island site.

A War College is christened

The torpedo station was followed by the establishment of the Naval Training Station in 1883. In 1884, Adm. Stephen B. Luce established the Naval War College.



SNOW COVERED Quonset huts fill the fields onboard Naval Training Station Newport during the World War II buildup in 1942.

The elegant white building situated atop Dewey Field that currently houses many artifacts and nautical treasures was initially constructed for a purpose that is a far cry from its use today. The current Naval War College Museum at one time was a residence for 52

sick and infirmed patients – some of whose remains can still be found adjacent to the tennis courts below Quarters A.

The Newport Asylum for the Poor was built in 1822 on Coasters' Harbor Island. It was a beautiful facility compared

to most others in the area that served the same purpose. The three-story building was situated with a commanding view of Narragansett Bay. For nearly eight decades the asylum was a place known for its quality staff, accommodations and care.

In 1880 Newport residents voted overwhelmingly to cede Coasters' Harbor Island to the state, at that time the building, outbuildings and 92-acre parcel had a value of \$192,000.

On March 12, 1881, the General Assembly gave approval to HISTORY, Page 5



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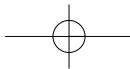


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Navy Newport History



MELVILLE in Portsmouth was the site of The Motor Torpedo Boat Squadrons Training Center, established in 1942. The so-called 'Mosquito Fleet' of PT Boats was deployed mostly in the Pacific Theater to harass the Japanese fleet. PT 109 was skippered by John F. Kennedy.



Coddington Point, as it appeared in 1943, was saturated with barracks, Quonset huts, sheds and warehouses. Coasters' Harbor Island, top right, also had many more buildings. The old frigate USS Constellation, used for years as a training ship, can be seen berthed at Constellation landing, extreme top of photo.

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the federal government to use the island, on which was established, in 1883, the nation's first shore-based naval training station.

In 1884, Adm. Stephen B. Luce established the Naval War College, the Navy's highest institution of learning. The vacated asylum became the first building of the college.

On Sept. 14, 1891, ground was broken for a new college building (Luce Hall), and the architect was George C. Mason

of Newport. Once the college was complete, the former asylum became the college's first administration building.

Gird for WWI & WWII

With the advent of steam-powered ships, the Navy was required to establish coaling stations for the units of the U.S. Fleet. Just before the turn of the century, one of the largest coaling stations in the country was established at Melville (northern Aquidneck

Island), and it attracted many battleships and cruisers to East Passage anchorages to "coal-ship."

By 1913, the Navy had acquired Government Landing in downtown Newport, and had constructed the Naval Hospital. This extension of the Navy was accelerated several years later when our nation entered WWI. As thousands of recruits came to Newport, the

HISTORY, Page 6

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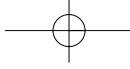
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Navy Newport History

History

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Navy acquired Coddington Point to accommodate the overflow from the Training Station on Coasters' Harbor Island.

In the 19 months of the Great War, more than 75,000 recruits passed through Newport. Housing became critical. "The adopt-a-Sailor" slogan encouraged residents to open their homes as temporary lodging for trainees.

The threat of a major war with the Third Reich perked up naval activity once again in Narragansett Bay. In 1940, the base developed rapidly. Coddington Point (inactivated after WWI due to budget constraints) was reactivated to house the many thousands of recruits being trained in Newport. Coddington Cove was acquired as a Supply Station; new fuel facilities were constructed at Melville, along with a PT Boat Training Center and

a Net Depot. Anchorage housing was built at this time and Sachuest Point.

A Harbor Defense Unit and Communications Station were constructed on Jamestown Island and Congress appropriated money for construction of a Naval Air Station at Quonset Point on the west side of the Bay. By the time the Air Station went into operation in 1941, plans had been completed for the construction of another facility directly adjacent to Quonset.

In 1942, the Advanced Base Depot at Davisville, predecessor to the present Construction Battalion Center, was established. In a brief period of three years, Narragansett Bay became one of the Navy's largest installations. In April 1941 a U.S. Naval Operating Base was established on Coasters' Harbor Island. By the end HISTORY, Page 7



ORIGINALLY established in 1942 in Norfolk to train incoming civilian clergy to minister to troops in World War II. It was moved to Newport in 1978. It's schoolhouse was named Brett Hall in 2000 and became its own Naval Chaplains School Command in 2007. It will relocate to Ft. Jackson, S.C., in 2010.

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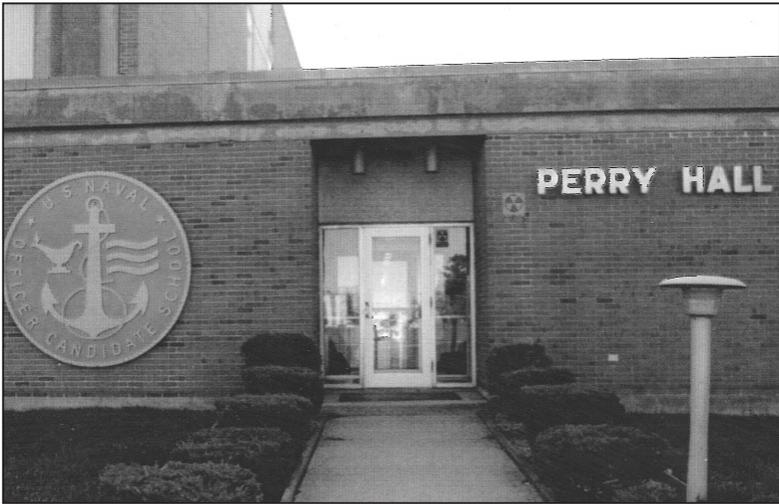
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Navy Newport History



OCS RETURNS — Perry Hall entrance, shown in 1993 photo, was former home of the U.S. Naval Officer Candidate School prior to its relocation to Pensacola Florida. It returned to Newport in August 2007, but has moved to King Hall.

History

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of World War II more than 100 ships of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet were based here.

Naval Chaplains School established

In February 1942, as civilian clergy enlisted in the Navy for World War II, the Chaplains School came into existence. With no military experience pastors, priests and rabbis heroically met the religious needs of the men and women of the Navy and Marine Corps throughout the war.

The school was originally established in Norfolk, Va., and moved to the College of William and Mary until it was decommissioned on Nov. 15, 1945.

A decade later the Korean War increased the demand for chaplains and determined the need for an indoctrination course for the newly inducted clergy. As a result the NCS was reestablished in Building 117 at NAVSTA Newport as part of the Naval Schools Command.

On July 15, 1971, the school became part of the Naval Officer Training Command (NOTC), and when the NOTC became the Naval Education Training Center (NETC) Newport on July 1, 1974 the Chaplains School was also absorbed.



Retired Adm. Arleigh Burke, right, a renowned World War II destroyerman nicknamed '31-knot Burke,' greets guests after the dedication ceremonies of Arleigh Burke Hall at the Surface Warfare Officers School Command. The command's forerunner was the Naval Destroyer School, 1961. Burke died at age 94 in 1996.

Naval Chaplains School moved to its current location on Porter Road in 1978. On Aug. 8, 2000, after extensive renovations to the school's building, it was renamed "Brett Hall" in honor of Chaplain Robert R. Brett who died alongside his chaplain assistant, Lance Cpl. Alexander Chin in the Vietnam War on February 22, 1968. In a ceremony that took place April 12,

2007, NCS became its own command separate from the OTCN under Naval Education Training Command (NETC), Naval Personal Development Command (NPDC), and the Center for Services Support (CSS). The school will be relocating to Ft. Jackson, S.C., in 2010.

Post war transitions...
After the war, many of the **HISTORY, Page 8**

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temporary units in the Bay began to deactivate. In 1946, the entire naval complex in the Bay area was consolidated under a single military command, designated as the U.S. Naval Base.

The Navy in Narragansett Bay adjusted to the peacetime era by increasing its activities in the fields of research and development, specializing in training and preparing for modern warfare. Except for the brief period during the Korean War, when more than 25,000 Sailors trained in Newport, the Navy applied its efforts to these three major areas.

In 1951, the Torpedo Station was permanently disestablished, and the manufacture of torpedoes was awarded to private industry. In place of the Torpedo Station, a new research and development facility, the Naval Underwater Ordnance Station, was established. In February 1966, the Ordnance Station and the Naval Underwater Weapons Systems Engineering Center were combined to better coordinate all underwater programs pursued at the Naval Base. A merger in 1970 with another naval activity in New London, Conn., created what is now the Naval Undersea Warfare Center.

In 1952, the Naval Training Station at Newport was disestablished as a result of the transfer of recruit training to Bainbridge, Md. However, the Fleet Training Center and Naval School Command,



AERIAL VIEW of Cruiser-Destroyer Force Atlantic and the Coddington Cove Piers 1 and 2 in 1970s. Cruisers, destroyers and destroyer escorts and other support ships were rafted sometimes four-deep. Note the huge fleet parking and quawall parking lots. The 1973 Shore Establishment Realignment Program directed the movement of the active fleet out of Newport.

which had been established several years earlier at Newport, continued to provide specialized training to Fleet personnel and Officer Candidate School, which opened in 1951, became the Navy's primary source for junior Naval Reserve Officers

Piers 1 and 2 were built in 1955 and 1958, respectively, to accommodate ships of the Cruiser-Destroyer Force and Service Force.

In July 1961, the forerunner to the Surface Warfare Officers

School, the Naval Destroyer School, was founded under the command of Captain Royal K. Joslin. The mission of SWOS is "to provide a continuum of professional education and training in support of Surface Navy requirements that prepare officers to serve at sea." Over a decade later the Surface Warfare Officers School was created in 1975 with the merger of the Naval Destroyer School and the Anti-submarine Warfare Officers School (Atlantic and Pacific).

Surface warfare officers attend SWOS several times throughout their careers. Initially officers attend the Division Officers Course shortly after their first tour at sea. As officers rise through the ranks they are selected as Department Heads, Executive Officers, Commanding Officers and possibly heads of Major Commands.

At each step they return to SWOS to share their fleet experiences and enhance their skills with the latest in tech-

nologies, stunning state-of-the-art trainers and simulators.

The command maintains three buildings on Coasters Harbor Island: Memorial Hall, Arleigh Burke Hall and Weakley Hall. Every year an average of 2,600 students attend SWOS for one of their courses.

In the legacy of the Destroyer School's first graduating class in July 1962, SWOSCOLCOM still provides officers a continuum of training during their seagoing careers

HISTORY, Page 9

Newport Navalog, Friday, July 25, 2008

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"through a system of functional education and training, with officers and men professionally qualified and motivated to function as effective naval leaders on board ships (Adm. Arleigh Burke)."

Fleet Realignment forces a refocusing

Early in 1973, a Shore Establishment Realignment study directed the closing of the Quonset Point Naval Air Station, a drawdown of facilities at Davisville, the movement of the active fleet from Newport, and a cutback of personnel and activities.

After the 1973 Shore Establishment Realignment, Naval Station Newport's active fleet element and five separate commands were absorbed into the Naval Education Training Center (NETC) on July 1, 1974.

NETC became the host command responsible for maintaining and sustaining the infrastructure and administering the schools.

A reorganization on Oct. 1, 1998, created Naval Station (NAVSTA) Newport with a mission to manage the shore installation and provide support for all tenant commands and activities.

At the same time, Officer Training Command Newport was established as a separate command allowing it to focus on its mission to prepare Sailors and Marines through a challenging professional and personal development training program that meets the Navy's officer manning needs for the fleet. Officer Training Command Newport (OTCN) is the Navy's primary location for officer accession training in the naval service.

The current Officer Training Command Newport has a rich history on the installation.

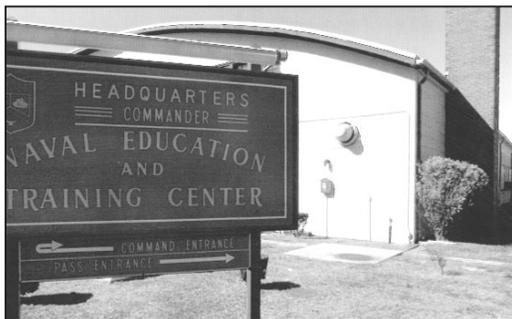
OTCN is comprised of five officer accession/Indoctrination programs (Officer Candidate School; Seaman-to-Admiral Twenty One - Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training and Naval Science Institute; Officer Development School; Director Commission Officer Indoctrination Course).

Newport commands and activities changed during the last three and a half decades from a mission of fleet support to one of officer training and education today.

Since the most recent Base Realignment and Closure 2005 recommendations, the base is positioned to grow in commands on board and students passing through one of its many schools. The Navy Supply Corps School and Center for Service Support will be operational in their new facilities in 2010. Naval Station Newport is transforming into the Navy's premiere center of officer training and education. All of this from such humble beginnings in a poor house on the hill.

May we help you, Mr. President

Throughout the years many of the residents of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue have had reason to come to Navy Newport to visit. The majority of our presidential guests were invited to participate in one of the many conferences at the Naval War College or to address a graduating class or special forum. Some, like President Eisenhower, would look for reasons to combine business with pleasure as he stayed often in Quarters A and enjoyed many of the local sites (and, golf courses). President Clinton spoke at Ft. Adams.



FORMER headquarters for the Naval Education and Training Center were in Building K-61 (above, but no longer standing). During the 1973 Shore Establishment Realignment, five previously independent commands were disestablished and their personnel absorbed by a new activity — NETC in 1974.



Naval Station (NAVSTA) Newport, seal at left, stood up in 1998 as the parent or landlord command for Navy Newport, and relocated into its current home in Building 690 in 1999. The first commanding officer was Capt. Cheryl Oakleaf. NAVSTA, which originally reported to Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, now reports to Commander, Naval Installations Command.



President George Bush speaks to Naval Command College international officers at Spruance Hall, Naval War College, in June 2007. It was the first time a president visited the naval complex since President Kennedy in 1961. President Clinton spoke at Fort Adams in 1998. Other presidents who visited — or who became president after their visit — include Roosevelt, Eisenhower and Carter.

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