

Key Dates in Sampson History

May 17, 1942—Sampson Naval Training Center created by the U. S. Government

Sept. 15, 1945—official separation center opened to get many naval personnel officially out of the U.S. naval forces and back as “civilians”

Oct. 1946—Sampson Naval College dedicated
Will close in June 1949

Dec. 1947—NYS Dept. of Mental Hygiene takes over the Sampson Hospital as an annex to the Willard State Hospital

June 1949—closure of Sampson Naval College

Nov 1950—former Sampson Naval Training Center transferred to U.S. Air Force

Jan 1951—first U.S. Air Force trainees arrive at Sampson Air Force Base

Dec 21, 1953—first official landing at the air strip of Sampson Air Force Base

Jan 1954—first 10 patients at the U.S. Air Force Hospital at Sampson, which will soon become the second largest hospital in the U.S. Air Force with 1500 beds (1054 patients in Nov. 1954)

June 1955—U.S. Air Force Hospital at Sampson decommissioned and turned over to Willard State Hospital and becomes the Sampson State School

June 30, 1955—closure of the Sampson Air Force Base

June 7, 1960—U.S. Government’s General Services Administration (GSA) sells 1265 acres to NYS for park use for \$500,000

Oct 15, 1960—NYS assumes ownership of Sampson Air Force Base

July 1964—Sampson State Park facilities opened for camping and beach use

Oct 1, 1971—Sampson State School closed