

**WWII-era and beyond - Oakland Army Base Life Captured in Oral History Project
Publication Event to Celebrate New Book and the Contributors Who Lived It**

A book launch celebration for *The Oakland Army Base: An Oral History*, published this spring by UC Berkeley's Regional Oral History Office (ROHO) at The Bancroft Library, will be held on **Thursday, July 22, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the West Oakland Senior Center, 1724 Adeline Street, Oakland.** The senior center is located at the corner of Adeline and 18th Street, in West Oakland, across the street from the West Oakland Branch Library.

Life at the former Oakland Army Base, from construction of its barracks and shipping piers in 1941, to base closure in 1999, is explored in the interviews with nearly 50 servicemen and women, civilian employees and longshore workers from every era of the base's history, and local community members involved in base conversion once it closed in 1999.

The project team – from The Bancroft Library, the Oakland Public Library's Oakland History Room, and the Port of Oakland and City of Oakland – are sponsoring the event to honor these contributors and celebrate publication of the book.

The book is the culmination of a four-year oral history project of exhaustive research and lengthy interviews commissioned by the City of Oakland and the Port of Oakland to commemorate and preserve the human story of the 58 years of the Oakland Army Base.

The Bancroft will present complimentary copies of the book to everyone who attends the book launch, and to the Oakland Public Library and the Oakland Museum of California. The book will be sent to east bay high schools, community colleges, universities and museums, to other California libraries, to historic, academic and veterans' organizations, and the Library of Congress.

For photographs or advance copies of the book, contact: Margaret Sullivan, 510-238-7387, or at msullivan@oaklandnet.com.

For information on the oral history project, contact: Martin Meeker, UC Berkeley Regional Oral History Office, 510-643-9733, or at mmeeker@library.berkeley.edu. To see the full transcripts of each interview and details on obtaining the book, go to the ROHO Oakland Army Base project website: <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/ROHO/projects/oab/index.html>