

Navy to Mask Swastika Look of Barracks in California



Sanborn via Google Earth

A view of the barracks, near San Diego. The Navy has long known it looked like a swastika but thought people would not see it. "In the '60s we did not have the Internet," a spokeswoman said.

By CAROLYN MARSHALL

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The Navy plans to spend \$600,000 for "camouflage" landscaping and rooftop adjustments so that 1960s-era barracks at the Naval Base Coronado near San Diego will no longer look like a Nazi swastika from the air.

The resemblance went unnoticed by the public for decades until it was spotted in aerial views on Google Earth.

But Navy officials said they became aware of it shortly after the 1967 groundbreaking, and had decided not to do anything.

"There was no reason to redo the buildings because they were in use," a spokeswoman for the base, Angelic Dolan, said. She added that the buildings were in a no-fly zone that is off limits to commercial airlines, so most people would not see them from the air.

"You have to realize back in the '60s we did not have the Internet," Ms. Dolan said. "We don't want to offend anyone, and we don't want to be associated with the symbol."

The Navy's plans were reported Monday in The San Diego Union-Tribune.

The [Anti-Defamation League](#) in San Diego has objected to the shape of the buildings.

"We told the Navy this was an incredibly inappropriate shape for a structure on a military installation," said Morris S. Casuto, regional director of the organization. He added, however, that his group "never ascribed evil intent to the structures' design."

Mr. Casuto praised the Navy for recognizing the problem and "doing the right thing."

The \$600,000 for the changes is included in the Navy's approved 2008 budget.

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