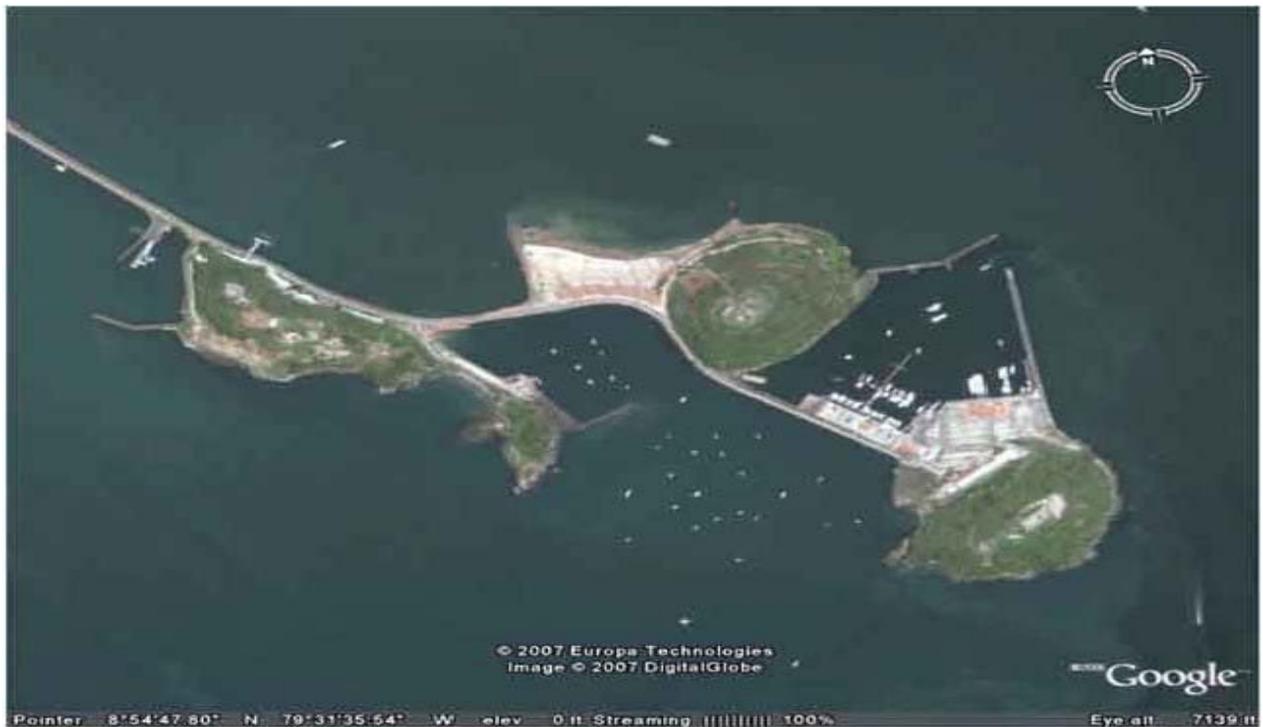


# Most Endangered Coast Defense Sites

## CDSG Preservation & Interpretation

### Site: Fort Amador & Grant, Balboa, Panama and Fort Randolph, Margarita Island, Panama

The completion of Panama Canal in 1914 caused the US Army to construct coast defenses on both the Pacific and Caribbean side. Using the spoil from the canal Fort Amador was created and causeway were built to several islands offshore. These islands were used for several large caliber disappearing guns and mortars. These Endicott-Taft batteries represent the final stages in their design and function. Many unique feature, such as underground tunnels and lifts were included. After World War II these batteries were disarmed, while the US Army used them for other purposes until 1979 when they were turned over to the Panamanian government. Little development occurred for the next twenty until the ownership of the Panama Canal was turned over to Panama in 2000.



**Threat:** Since the ownership of the Panama Canal was turned over to the Panamanian government in 2000 a commercial development plan for these forts has been in place. The last fifteen years have seen most the Army buildings at Fort Amador demolished, while on the fortified island of Fort Grant have suffered from the extensive landfill and the building of a large water tank, marina, condos, and a shopping center on top of coast artillery batteries. Fort Randolph had all its building destroyed leaving only the batteries. Several attempts at turning the former fort into a commercial manufacturing zone have failed resulting in an abandoned property. Current plans are for a LNG storage facility and a container terminal. The remaining coast defense structures are at risk due continuing commercial development.

**Contact:** There is no organized group working to protect these coast defense sites. For more information, please contact Terry McGovern for more information at [tcmcgovern@att.net](mailto:tcmcgovern@att.net)

### **Site: Fort W.G. Wright, Fisher Island, New York**

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As the headquarters fort for the Defenses of Long Island Sound, Fort W.G. Wright was a large Endicott-Taft fort that support a range of both rapid-fire and disappearing guns and mortars, along with a controlled mine depot. It supported several smaller forts defending Long Island Sound so it had a large warehouse and recreation/health complex. The US Army made us of this fort from 1879 to 1948. In the late 1950's it was sold to private interests.





**Threat:** Since the former fort was purchased by private interests many of its structures have been demolished or converted to other uses. The fort infrastructure was turned into the island commercial center supporting the island residence with transportation, educational, and utilities. These activities have caused widespread damage and destruction to the military structures, especially the batteries that are been used for trash disposal and landfill activities. Continued commercial development threatens even more of the remaining sites at Fort W.G. Wright

**Contact:** There is no organized group working to protect this coast defense site. For more information, please contact CDSG Preservation Officer Gordon Bliss at his email address: [preservation@cdsg.org](mailto:preservation@cdsg.org)

**Site: Louisiana Forts (Fort Jackson, Fort St Philip, Fort Pike, Fort Macomb, Proctor's Tower, and Fort Livingston)**

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The defense of the Mississippi River and New Orleans has been important military objective since the War of 1812. As a result several early Third System forts were constructed along the various waterways leading to New Orleans. The primary defense works were Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip on the Mississippi River, about 90 miles downriver from the city. Secondary works were constructed at the entrances to Lake Pontchartrain and at Grand Isle from the Gulf of Mexico. Many of these defenses were involved in the Civil War and later had Endicott-Taft batteries added. By the 1920's most of these defenses had been abandoned.





**Threat:** Large masonry structures built in marshlands and exposed to periodic hurricanes need constant care, but unfortunately these works have receive little care over the last 100 years. The wasting away of the Mississippi delta has brought these forts closer to the Gulf while the have sunk lower into the mud. This has causes large cracks and erosion of their foundations. Commercial development and dredging round these works has also had a negative effect. Without maintenance these forts will disappear into the swamps. In fact one defense, Tower Dupre was complete destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2004. All these forts continue to be closed to the public.

**Contact:** There is no organized group working to protect this coast defense site. For more information, please contact:  
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