



The CDSG Newsletter



The Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. — November 2014



Chairman's Message

Norm Scarpulla

We held the 2014 conference at San Diego and Los Angeles on October 1 through 5. The members who attended had access to many sites that would not normally be open. In San Diego, we were able to see former army batteries on the Naval Submarine Base and many of the structures on Point Loma. We were able to visit the former Fort Emory, a location rarely open to outsiders. At Los Angeles, Steve Nelson and his volunteers at the Fort MacArthur Military Museum opened the places that they control, arranged access to other locations, and prepared a delicious lunch. One highlight was the live operation of a restored army generator set in the power room of Battery Osgood. Mike Fiorini, Joe Janesic, and their team organized a great conference.

CDSG is a Maryland non-profit corporation. We have a three-person board of directors; Quentin Schillare, Alfred Chiswell, and I are the directors through September 30, 2015. We hold quarterly board meetings that include key members responsible for membership, finance, publications, etc. We hold the annual meeting, open to all members, during the conference.

During the past year, CDSG implemented an improved website, thanks to the efforts of Mark Berhow. We now can accept electronic payments for memberships, books, and other items. Another recent success has been our role as a catalyst to find organizations to take some surplus Navy 16-inch cannon barrels, which had been spares for the *Iowa*-class battleships.

We need members to write articles for the *Journal* and *Newsletter*. Even a short report about a visit to a fort is useful. Articles that narrate the history of a fort, or the experiences of a coast artillery veteran, can be published. More difficult to write are articles that examine why and how the forts were built and operated. But if you have an idea for an article, contact Bolling Smith, our *Journal* editor, and discuss what might be needed to write it.

We need members to be site representatives, who stay in contact with the site owner or manager, and act as a conduit for information both ways. What is going on at the site; what questions does the site manager have? You don't need to know everything, just be willing to make contact with the site owner or manager periodically, and show that CDSG will support the preservation and interpretation of the site.

Currently, we have 390 members. However, we need to continue to recruit new members. When you visit a fort or a military event, be an ambassador for the CDSG. Wear a CDSG shirt, hat, or patch. Talk to people about the organization and point them to our website, CDSG.org. Can you recruit one new member in 2014?

CDSG Meeting and Tour Calendar

Please advise Terry McGovern of any additions or changes at tcmcgovern@att.net

2015 CDSG Annual Conference
April 29 to May 3, 2015
Delaware River HD
Terry McGovern, tcmcgovern@att.net

2016 CDSG Annual Conference
September 2016
Columbia River
Mark Berhow, berhowma@comcast.net

CDSG Special Tour
June 2015
Panama Canal Zone
Terry McGovern, tcmcgovern@att.net

2017 CDSG Annual Conference
April 2017
New York
Norman Scarpulla, nands.scarpulla@verizon.net

CDSG Special Tour
Defenses of Switzerland
Terry McGovern, tcmcgovern@att.net

Other Meetings and Tours

February 5-19, 2015
ECCOFORT Reg. Association Tour
Punjab, India
Hans-Rudolf Neuman, hrv.neumann@t-online.de

May 30 - June 6, 2015
Fortress Study Group Overseas Tour
South Portugal
Charles Blackwood, casemate@fsgfort.com

May 2015
Council on America's Military Past
New Orleans, Louisiana
Marylou Gjernes, mgjernes@earthlink.net

August/September 2015
ECCOFORT Reg. Association Tour
Verona, Italy
Hans-Rudolf Neuman, hrv.neumann@t-online.de

September 11-15, 2015
 Association Saint-Maurice d'Etudes Militaries Tour
 Hamburg, Germany
 Marc Girard, president@www.asmem.ch

September 2015
 Annual Meeting Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Fetungsforschung
 Nurnberg, Germany

October 16, 2015
 International Fortress Council Annual Meeting
 Antwerp, Belgium
 Kees Neisingh, secretariat@internationalfortresscouncil.org

May 2016
 Fortress Study Group Overseas Tour
 Menorca/Majorca
 TBA, casemate@fsgfort.com

Sept/Oct 2016
 ECCOFORT Reg. Association Tour
 Edirne, the Dardenelles, Istanbul
 Hans-Rudolf Neuman, hrv.neumann@t-online.de

October 2016
 International Fortress Council Annual Meeting
 Toulon, France
 Kees Neisingh, secretariat@internationalfortresscouncil.org

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Coast Defense Study Group Annual Meeting Minutes

October 3, 2014
 San Pedro, CA

Attendance:

Board Members Present: Norman Scarpulla, Alfred Chiswell, and Quentin Schillare.

Quorum present? Yes.

Committee Chairs Present: Charles Bogart, Terry McGovern and Mark Berhow.

Attendance: 30.

Proceedings:

The meeting was conducted in a ballroom at the DoubleTree Hotel and called to order by chairman Norm Scarpulla at 7:55 pm. The previous annual meeting was held in Pensacola, Florida, at the last conference.

Introductory Remarks: Mr. Scarpulla welcomed the group, thanked everyone for attending this year's conference, and introduced the members of the board of directors for the upcoming year, including new member Alfred Chiswell who assumed his duties on October 1st. Norm reported that the board has chosen him as chairman through September 30, 2015. He thanked outgoing board member Mike Fiorini for his three years of service on the board and for co-chairing the San Diego / San Pedro conference. Mr. Scarpulla also thanked conference co-chair Joe Janesic for his effort.

Three Challenges: Mr. Scarpulla outlined three challenges to the viability of the Coast Defense Study Group and its contributions as a non-profit educational organization dedicated to education, documentation, preservation, and interpretation of seacoast and harbor defenses and fortifications: membership, journal articles, and site representation.

Membership. Membership chairman Sam Stokes did not attend the conference, but Mr. Scarpulla gave a brief report on current membership in the CDSG. Currently, there are 390 members. The organization currently gains and losses approximately 20 members each year. Mr. Scarpulla renewed a call for current members to recruit new members to maintain the CDSG and provide op-

portunities for the organization to support the organizational goals of preservation and interpretation. Terry McGovern made copies of the CDSG membership application for those present, suggesting they each recruit a new member.

Corporate Governance: Mr. McGovern informed the group of a change of the principal office and resident agent of the CDSG. A letter dated June 22, 2014, and mailed on July 30 informed the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation that the principal address for official correspondence has been changed to 17301 Will Court, Accokeek, Maryland 20607, the address of Bolling W. Smith. The correspondence also named Mr. Smith as the resident agent of the CDSG, vice Elliot Deutsch.

CDSG Journal: *Journal* editor Bolling Smith did not attend the conference but sent comments through publisher Mark Berhow. Mr. Berhow reminded the group that the recent death of Bill Gaines further reduced the routine author pool. Charlie Bogart has been supplying a considerable number of reminiscences he has accumulated from CAC veterans over the years. These are greatly appreciated, and provide a useful, almost unique, perspective, and have been important in maintaining *Journal* volume. To maintain the *Journal* as a quality publication, Mr. Smith has been writing articles himself. The *Journal* has available articles for one and a half issues. The editor and publisher would like a three-edition lead time to enable editorial flexibility. Three members present indicated that they are working on articles. Several members mentioned that Mr. Smith is a thorough editor who will help improve article drafts, including obtaining illustrations and photographs. Tom Batha suggested that the *Journal* is important enough to the CDSG that funding to support it from other areas of the organization may be an option to maintain quality.

American Seacoast Defenses, 3rd Edition: Mr. Berhow has finished work on the 3rd Edition of the ASD. This update contains about 70 pages of new material, including a new index. He recommends this publication be printed on demand, with a web-based publisher, vice printing a stock for sale. He had a copy of the new edition printed with a hard cover which was viewed by many at the meeting. All agreed that it was a very professional job. With an eye to the future, Mr. Berhow suggested for each hard copy of the 3rd edition sold the recipient will also receive a e-copy. He told the group he would bring a proposal to the November board meeting on the details and timing of publication for consideration.

Craig Lentz suggested an indexing effort for the *Journal*. Several attendees, including Alfred Chiswell told the group that indexing is time consuming and expensive. Mr. Berhow explained that the *Journal* and *Newsletter* on the DVD are searchable with Adobe Acrobat.

Site Representative: Mr. Scarpulla reminded the group that the position remains vacant. Site representatives are the immediate public face of the CDSG at the various seacoast and harbor defense sites in public and private hands. He further remarked that this has been a recurring challenge for the CDSG as few members live near the sites demanding the closest oversight. Our current largest vacancy is the New York harbor area. The current model is a site representative chair with regional or site representatives. Mr. Scarpulla told the group he would assume the site rep chairmanship when he leaves the board next year.

Finance: Terry McGovern, corporate treasurer discussed several aspects of the financial health of the CDSG. He supported his remarks with several handouts.

2013 Financial Summary. This five-year income statement and current balance sheet indicates that the organization is in good financial health with a current operating surplus of \$2,708, or 11.5% of income over expenses. The balance sheet shows total assets of \$83,631.

CDSG Fund Report. Mr. McGovern passed out the CDSG Fund Report for 2013. The CDSG Fund received \$3,021 in gifts during the year, but made no grants to support the preservation and interpretation of American seacoast defenses due to a lack of qualified grant requests. The fund had a balance of \$7,329 at the end of 2013. While thanking the 28 members who contributed to the fund during the year, Mr. McGovern reminded the group that he and fellow trustees Sam Stokes and Mark Berhow stand willing to accept donations and grant requests.

CDSG Press: Mr. McGovern provided a handout with a review of 2013 efforts and plans for 2014. He thanked Mark Berhow, Jon Prostack, Tom Kavanagh, and Tom Batha for their long-term volunteer work in support of the CDSG Press. The 2013 summary included inclusion of Volume 27 (2013) of the *Coast Defense Journal* and *CDSG Newsletter* to the back issues. The organization also offered a ten-DVD collection of key National Archives coast defense documents for \$250. The handout provides the status of current book and reprint inventories. Mr. McGovern reinforced Mr. Berhow's remarks that the future of the CDSG Press lies in print-on-demand, vice printing and managing a hard copy inventory. The first print-on-demand was the reprint of a doctoral dissertation on First and Second-System forts. Messrs. McGovern and Berhow are working on a companion to *American Seacoast Defenses* called *Guide to Modern American Seacoast Forts (1885-1950)*. This work will focus on the history, key features, location, current status, and access.

Conferences and Tours: these were discussed.

2015 Conference (Defenses of the Delaware River area). Point of contact Chris Zeeman was unable to attend the conference. Mr. Scarpulla provided a report. This conference presents challenges because of distance between sites and distance from potential centrally located hotel sites. Mr. McGovern has discussed the day-to-day schedule with Mr. Zeeman. Additionally, he has talked to representatives of the Delaware and New Jersey State Parks,

the manager of Forts Delaware and DuPont, and representatives of Forts Mott, Miiflin, and Miles. The intent is to include these officials in the planning of the conference to facilitate access to sites and to use their local expertise to enhance the visits.

2016 Conference. Initially this conference was scheduled for the Harbor Defenses of Key West and Tampa. However, Charles Bogart indicated that the cost and distances involved would make this event expensive and difficult. The board will arrange an alternative site.

New York Conference. Mr. Scarpulla related a discussion with CDSG member Shawn Welch, also a board member of the Army Ground Forces Association (AGFA). Mr. Welch has proposed that CDSG and AGFA co-host a conference in the New York City area. Discussions are on-going.

Special Tour (Panama). Mr. McGovern briefed the attendees on a potential 2015 or 2016 special tour to Panama. In a flyer distributed to the group he outlined an 11-day trip covering the former coast and harbor defenses of the Panama Canal. To gauge interest he requested interested members email him their intentions. If enough members are interested he will continue planning.

Special Tour (Switzerland). Mr. McGovern informed the group and provided a flyer on a potential 10-day special tour to the fortresses of Switzerland based on an invitation from the Association St-Maurice d'Etudes Militaires, a fortification study group similar to the CDSG. He requested members indicate an interest for this tour by the end of 2014.

Special Tour (Gallipoli). In a similar vein to Switzerland, Charles Bogart mentioned a contact from Valor Tours for a trip to the defenses on the Gallipoli Peninsula of Turkey.

Preservation: Preservation committee chair Gordon Bliss did not attend the conference. Mr. Scarpulla presented his report to the members.

Gateway National Recreation Area. The impact of Hurricane Sandy is still felt on many of the coast defenses of the New York area. It appears that the limited funds available to the GNRA staff will not be applied to the coast defense structures.

Fort Monroe. The Fort Monroe Authority is still in discussions with the army on the future of the site. The army still controls the concrete batteries down-island from the historic old fort. Their future is unclear. The National Park Service master plan does not focus on the military aspects of the installation, highlighting the social and cultural aspects of the Old Point Comfort site.

Battery Cullum-Sevier. A lack of funds is hampering the stabilization of this Endicott-period battery at Fort Pickens, Florida. There is some work on the remaining period buildings, but other than vegetation removal, not much else is scheduled other than a proposal to get Fort Pickens on the National Register of Historic Places.

Battleship Barrels. Terry McGovern provided a flyer on his efforts. He reported that of the five 16-inch 50 caliber barrels remaining at the St. Julien's Creek Annex of the Norfolk Naval Shipyard; one is on reserve by Monmouth (New Jersey) Country Parks for Battery Lewis in Navesink. Four are available. The Navy has given potential claimants until November 1, 2014, to identify and reserve a barrel. After that date, unclaimed barrels will be turned over to the Defense Logistics Agency and sold for scrap.

Mr. McGovern has been contacted by other potential claimants, but they do not seem to have the financial resources to acquire a barrel by the deadline. The CDSG could request the Navy extend the deadline, but with few organizations able to afford the cost of shipment, an extension may prove irrelevant.

Board of Directors: Mr. Scarpulla commented that during a search for new directors there is nothing in the CDSG bylaws to prevent the nomination of previous directors. This would expand the pool of candidates; however, previous directors may want new blood to have a chance to serve. The nominating committee is composed of the last three former board members, currently Miike Fiorini, Charles Bogart, and Chris Zeeman. Because service on the board is voluntary, he asked for volunteers. Mr. Scarpulla further informed the group that the various committee chairs will be reappointed at the November board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm PDST.

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Fortress Study Group News

Mark Berhow

The Fortress Study Group continues its efforts to keep pace with their publications schedule by releasing three issues of *Casemate*, their newsletter, and one issue of *Fort*, their yearly international journal of fortification. *Fort* 2014 was just mailed, and it is a whopper, 240 pages of excellent articles filled with both gray-scale and color illustrations. Articles in this issue include: the Portuguese Defenses of Azemmour Morocco; Dürer's Artillery Fortifications; Fredrick the Great and Prussian Defense Architecture; Fort Cumberland (Britain); the Walls of Tortosa; Napoleonic Fortifications in Egypt; Vido, Greece; The Defenses of the Thames and Midway during WWI; the Bordeelschans; Martin Beckman and the English occupation of Tanger; Fortress Oman; and Louis-Nicolas, le Chevalier de Clerville. Like the CDSG, the FSG is looking for more volunteer article authors, and they are still looking for a volunteer to edit the *Casemate*. They are investigating reprinting items from other fortification journals in English if the proper arrangements can be made.

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Pearl Harbor Trip Report

Keith Allen

I went on a work trip to Hawaii and got in some time at the historic sites. I couldn't get to *Arizona* this time because of some scheduling problems, I revisited submarine Bowfin and the adjacent museum, and the *Utah* memorial and wreck. I made my first trips to *Missouri*, the air museum on Ford Island, and Hickam Air Force Base.

Bowfin is a superbly maintained museum submarine in its original World War II configuration. One minor complaint is that you cannot get to the lower levels--the battery compartments, motor room, etc. You cannot go in the conning tower, but an intact conning tower of another World War II fleet boat, *Parche*, is in the museum on shore. Another small disappointment is that there was not much, on the boat itself or the adjacent museum, on Bowfin's rather distinguished operational career. The subma-

rine museum is smallish but pretty good, especially the outdoor displays, which include a kaiten, McCann rescue chamber, and other items. Maybe the most surprising display in the indoor museum is the missile control panel from a *Polaris* boat.

One thing you need to know about *Missouri* is that she is damned expensive. The basic admission charge is \$25. This gets, I think, limited topside and second deck access. You can go on the bridge and some adjacent areas, but the entire midships and after superstructure, including the Tomahawk and Harpoon launchers, is closed off, or least was when I went there (they were doing some maintenance so maybe more areas of the ship are normally open). Turret 1 is open, but none of the 5-inch mounts is. To get below the second deck--to the plotting rooms, machinery spaces, central station, etc.--you need to pay another \$25 for the guided "Battle Stations" tour. I elected to do that, and was the only one on the tour. But I did get to see some interesting areas of the ship that are not included in the basic admission--the after main and secondary battery plotting rooms, one fireroom and one engine room, etc. I was surprised at how little change there seemingly was in the fire control equipment for her 1980s modernization (apart, obviously, from the FC gear for Tomahawk, Harpoon, CIWS, etc., which we didn't see). She still had the Mark 8 rangekeeper, Mark 41 stable vertical, 1946-vintage Mark IA secondary battery computer, etc. All in all, I thought *Missouri* was interesting, but pretty expensive by comparison with other museum ships, especially considering the rather limited and controlled access that you get.

I went again to the *Utah* wreck on Ford Island, which is a fairly impressive sight. I have a Defense Department ID and thus could get on Ford Island without any problem. I think that others can make arrangements to see *Utah*, but am not sure. Most of her is submerged but you can see a fair part of the starboard side, forward. She was torpedoed on her port side and capsized. They tried to right her but gave up.

The Pacific Aviation Museum is also on Ford Island. Normal access is by a shuttle from the Arizona visitors' center, but with DOD ID you can drive and park there. It is fairly new; when I was on Ford Island in 2006 they were still building it and shipping in aircraft. It's a fairly good museum, housed in two hangars that were built before 1941; one of them, Hangar 79, shows a lot of strafing damage in the windows. Hangar 37 has mostly World War II aircraft. It includes an intact Zero and the wreckage of a Zero that crashed during the attack. Hangar 79 has mostly postwar aircraft, many of them still lacking any kind of descriptive signs. Several aircraft are outdoors. The highlight, at least for me, was a B-17E that was shot up by fighters over New Guinea in February 1942 and made a forced landing in the jungle. She was recovered in 2006.

Ford Island is a pretty place which still has a 1941 feel to it, and many buildings that were present during the attack. I wanted to see more of the island, such as the seaplane ramps on the south end, but ran out of time.

I also went to Hickam Field and was quite impressed. It is probably the most beautiful U.S. military installation I have ever seen (admittedly a low bar, for the most part). Many of the original buildings are there, including seven or eight big hangars with old Air Corps emblems on them. The original flagpole, seen

in a famous 7 December photograph, is still in place. Historically, probably the highlight is the old enlisted barracks and mess hall, now the headquarters of Air Forces Pacific. A bomb hit the mess hall here, and I believe the great majority of those lost at Hickam were killed in this building. The walls are still riddled with bullet holes and fragment marks. An interior wall in the courtyard has some large gouges, I suspect from the bomb that hit the mess hall. These scars have been deliberately left intact.

I did not get to any of the outlying airfields or any coastal defense sites. Maybe next time.

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Shot Tongs In Place in Battery Townsley

John Martini johnmartini@comcast.net

Our efforts to restore the ammunition service at Battery Townsley continue. Attached is a photo of the reproduction Gilmartin shot tongs built by Volunteer Fred Schwartz. It is attached to the overhead trolley hoist restored by Pat Martinez and Dan Pfankuch that we reported earlier.



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Delaware Sees New Life for a Historic Base

By JON HURDLE

The *New York Times* AUG. 12, 2014

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/13/realestate/commercial/delaware-sees-new-life-for-a-historic-base-on-the-river.html?module=Search&mabReward=relbias%3Ar%2C{%22%22%3A%22RI%3A9%22}&_r=0

FORT DUPONT, Del. — Wanted: developers for a historic military base who are willing to revive neglected buildings in return for cheap land.

Delaware is looking for private investors to revamp and preserve the 325-acre Fort DuPont Complex, the military site dating back to the American Revolution that abuts the Delaware River on the state’s northern coast.

The State of Delaware, which has owned the complex since 1947, wants to turn it into a “live-work-play” community where people would live in buildings that once housed army officers, or in newly constructed single- or multifamily homes that match existing designs and materials, and would be situated among the complex’s extensive lawns and tree-lined avenues.

Among the many dreams for residential dwellers would be bike-riding on traffic-free streets, sports on the many ball fields, or community events in a renovated War Department Theater, a 1933 building where servicemen and their families once watched movies for 20 cents a show. The theater, like many other buildings on the campus, is now boarded up.

If developed, the complex would also allow the expansion of Delaware City, an adjacent community of some 1,800 people that wants room to grow, but is blocked by the river on one side and a refinery on another. The city’s population could increase by up to 30 percent if the project’s residential component is realized, said Richard C. Cathcart, Delaware City’s manager.

The project, first proposed about a decade ago, took a step forward in late July when Gov. Jack Markell signed legislation setting up a Redevelopment and Preservation Corporation to oversee the development.

The corporation, which will have an 11-member board consisting of state officials, representatives of Delaware City, and a chairman or chairwoman to be appointed by the governor, is charged with putting into action a master plan drawn up by consultants in 2013.

“It’s very much an underutilized asset,” Governor Markell said. “The question is, can we turn it into something that’s a lot better?”

The state, which spends \$80,000 a year on maintaining the buildings and grounds used by several departments at the complex, would require private sector capital to initiate the project.

But the state will approve or deny individual plans, said Matthew P. Chesser, an administrator in Delaware’s Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

“Before a state entity can cut land loose for a certain purpose, it has to reach a higher standard than maybe what’s permissible by law — what’s morally and ethically right,” Mr. Chesser said.

Any plans for “lewd and lascivious” establishments like rowdy bars or strip clubs would be rejected, he said. He plans to issue

requests for proposals by early spring 2015.

If executed, the project would follow other examples of adaptive reuse of former military bases such as the Presidio, a much bigger development in San Francisco, and Fort Bragg, N.C., where an army base operates alongside a water-treatment plant and ball fields.

In Philadelphia, the redevelopment of both the Navy Yard and Penn's Landing on the Delaware River show that former military bases can become successful commercial or recreational centers, said David M. Scolnic, a real estate lawyer at Hangley, Aronchick, Segal, Pudlin, & Schiller in Philadelphia.

The Navy Yard in particular has become a magnet for major corporations like the pharmaceutical firm GlaxoSmithKline and the retailer Urban Outfitters, because of state tax incentives and its proximity to major highways, Mr. Scolnic said.

Fort DuPont's position, some 10 miles from Interstate 95, would most likely make it less attractive to business or educational entities than the Philadelphia locations, he said.

But the marina and new houses nearby are likely to be the most attractive features for new residents, Mr. Scolnic said. "That really has some sizzle to it," he said.

The residential component, however, is expected to add housing for only 500 to 600 people, reflecting the state's desire to preserve the environmental and historic nature of the site.

"It can't be super built-up," Governor Markell said. "You can't pave over everything."

"If you combine the green space with the water access and the water view, it's pretty unique, not to mention the historic component," he said. "It's probably not for everybody, but for the right developer, it could be attractive."

Mr. Cathcart of Delaware City said it would cost \$900,000 just to stabilize historic buildings by repairing roofs and boarding up windows and doors, indicating the state's limited ability to back the project financially.

"It's going to be hard to get the General Assembly to get an appropriation for a lot of these infrastructure repairs and upgrades," Mr. Cathcart said during a visit to the complex. "Let's leverage the private sector: land at a very reasonable price, or flat out give it to you, in return for the upgrades for the infrastructure."

Mr. Cathcart hopes the first projects will break ground next year.

The complex, which is designated as a National Historic District, contains 63 structures that contributed to the federal designation, or about half of the number that stood when the site was assessed in 1943.

Twenty-nine of the surviving buildings were built from 1898 to 1922, when Fort DuPont was one of three coastal defense installations in Delaware and New Jersey, while 24 date from World War II. The latter category consists of one remaining building of a group that was used to house around 3,000 German prisoners of war from 1943 to 1945. Their barracks were overseen by a lookout tower, which would be preserved under the redevelopment plan.

Fifteen of the existing buildings are classified as "threatened" and need emergency stabilization, while two are ruins and will be demolished, according to the master plan.

The plan also calls for a marina to be built at the mouth of the canal that divides Fort DuPont from Delaware City; a pedestrian

bridge that would link the two; demolition of some historic buildings that are derelict or incompatible with the planned development; and expanded trails and sports fields.

With its access to the water and access to Delaware's Bayshore region, some of which is federally protected, Fort DuPont is also being positioned as an ecotourism destination.

Attracting more birders, kayakers and other outdoor enthusiasts would build on Delaware City's recent success in becoming the new national headquarters for the American Birding Association.

For now, officials declined to identify potential developers or describe their level of interest in the project.

"We will see what the market can actually bear and we will see what kind of investment has to be made in infrastructure in the first place," the governor said. "Our goal has been to put a plan together that the market can respond to."

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Looking for "Good Homes" for Historic 16-inch/50 Barrels

Terry McGovern



Remaining five 16-inch/50 barrels at St. Julien Creek Naval Annex

We continue the task of finding good homes for the remaining four barrels (three off USS *New Jersey* and one off USS *Iowa*) to take on the financial and organizational effort to move a 16-inch/50 barrel to their site. The US Navy has given us more time to find good homes and will hold the barrels from being scrapped as long as active efforts are underway to move the barrels to good homes. We need your help in finding organizations that will take barrels and give them good homes and we need to do it now. Please let Terry McGovern know at 703/934-3661 or tcmcgovern@att.net if you have a good home in mind for these 16-inch/50 barrels.

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Future CDSG Tour to the Defenses of Panama

Terrance McGovern

Paolo Sanfilippo and Terry McGovern are discussing a possible CDSG special tour to the defenses of the Panama Canal for 2015. The first and last CDSG tour to Panama was in 1993, so it has been 20 years since the CDSG held a tour to these defenses. Recently, several CDSG members returned from a

private tour with Paolo to the defenses of Panama and reported back on the details of their tour (please see Michel van Best's report on the CDSG website). While many coast defense sites have suffered from economic development in the last 20 years, many batteries remain accessible. Paolo has developed this tentative schedule below (subject to change) for a 10-day tour to the defenses of Panama.

So far I have been contacted by Mike Fiorini, John Cartwright, Roy Hatanaka, Quentin Schillare, Morgan Ford, Ian Wolfe, Craig Dyson, and Richard Schilb. We need to at least 20 members interested in going on this tour to make it worthwhile to organize the tour. Please let me know at tcmcgovern@att.net as soon as possible if you are interested in this tour. Based on your response by the end of the year, we will begin the detailed planning process or delay the tour until 2016.



Battery Webb, 14-inch battery, Fort Randolph

DATE	ITINERARY
Saturday	Arrival Lodging (Panama City Hotel)
Sunday	Pacific Site Fort Kobbe / Howard AFB Full day at Fort Kobbe / Howard Air Force Base Lodging (Panama City Hotel)
Monday	Pacific Site Full day at Fort Amador (Naos & Culebra) and Fort Clayton Lodging (Panama City Hotel)
Tuesday	Pacific Site Fort Grant (Flamenco & Perico) Lodging (Panama City Hotel)
Wednesday	Pacific Site City Tour (Modern + Colonial) Visit to Panama Canal Lodging (Panama City Hotel)
Thursday	Atlantic Site Partial Transit Panamá Canal Lodging (Colon City Hotel)
Friday	Atlantic Site Fort Gullick and Fort Davis Visit to Gatun Locks Observatory Visit to Portobelo Town Lodging (Colon City Hotel)
Saturday	Atlantic Site Fort Randolph, Galeta Island, NSAG Lodging (Colon City Hotel)
Sunday	Atlantic Site Fort Sherman Fort San Lorenzo Lodging (Colon City Hotel)
Monday	Atlantic Site Fort Sherman Fort De Lesseps Lodging (Colon City Hotel)
Tuesday	Transfer to Panamá City and Departure

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Current State of Fort Andrews (Harbor Defenses of Boston)

Gordon Bliss

In October I made a trip out to Fort Andrews to see what may have changed since my previous trip there two years ago. Mostly it is positive. The post chapel was restored this year and now looks like new. There are a number of new interpretive signs along with sign poles pointing towards the major features. The open ground was being well maintained and there seemed to be less vegetation in some other areas. I was told that goats were brought onto the island for a while and this helped reduce the vegetation. For the first time in my several visits over the years, I was able to walk to the fire control on top of the hill in front of officers' row without having to push through significant vegetation. The remaining brick buildings still look in good shape and have not deteriorated since my previous visit. The gun batteries remain pretty much as they have been. Some vegetation has been cleared from around Battery Bumpus but Rice and McCook look like they have not been touched. It would be nice if some work could be done on the gun batteries, but otherwise the fort looks very good. My thanks to Alex Hall for enabling my transportation to the island.



Signage at entrance from dock



Main parade with barracks, storehouse on right



Post chapel



Interior of post chapel



Yurt camp and FC tower as seen from Battery Bumpus



Quarters with new interpretive sign



Two new interpretive signs



Hilltop FC station

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2014 Conference at San Diego and Los Angeles

October 1 to 5, 2014

Mark Berhow

During a good two years of preparation, the conference chairs spent a lot of time and effort coordinating the contacts with the various entities that control access to the former Harbor Defenses of San Diego and Los Angeles, California. The various levels of the navy bureaucracy that needed to be contacted to gain access to the former Fort Rosecrans and Fort Emory at San Diego was staggering; we really did not know what we were going to be able to visit and photograph until the day of our visit. Mike and Joe are to be commended for their perseverance to get us in to the sites that we were able to visit.

The conference group of 52 gathered at the Fairfield Inn near San Diego Old Town the afternoon of October 1, with evening presentations and a prep talk for our first day's adventure at old Fort Rosecrans, now US Naval Base Point Loma, home to the Main Base (formerly Submarine Base); Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command (NMAWC); Fleet Combat Training Center Pacific; Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR); SPAWAR Systems Center; and the Fleet Intelligence Command Pacific.

The Harbor Defenses of San Diego

The bay at San Diego is one of the few large natural harbors on the Pacific coast of North America. It was discovered in 1542 by Portuguese explorer Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, who was exploring the Pacific coast on behalf of Spain. It was not until 1769 that the area was formally occupied by Spain with the establishment of a presidio and a mission. The entrance to the bay was eventually defended by a small fort on Punta de las Guijarros (Ballast Point) in 1796, which was essentially abandoned after 1835. Once the United States took over the area, most of Point Loma was reserved as a military reservation in 1852, but no actual construction of defenses were begun until 1874, only to halted later that year due to lack of funds. The first formal defenses were erected beginning in 1896 with construction of four-gun 10-inch disappearing-gun battery. This was followed by the construction of a 5-inch gun battery and a 3-inch gun battery on Ballast Point and another 3-inch gun battery on North Island. The Point Loma reservation was named Fort Rosecrans in 1899 after Civil War veteran Maj. Gen. William Starke Rosecrans.

The main defenses of the bay were to be electrically controlled mines, protected by the smaller guns. However, the meager defenses were always a concern, finally resulting in the emplacement of eight 12-inch mortars in two batteries in 1915, followed by upgrading the searchlights. The next major upgrade to the armament for the San Diego defenses occurred in 1935 with the emplacement of two 8-inch guns on modern barbette carriages. The Harbor Defenses of San Diego received a complete set of new defense weapons after 1940, with the construction of three batteries for 6-inch guns, and two casemated batteries for 16-inch guns, along with a number of temporary and AMTB

gun batteries. The defenses were shutdown after 1947, and the army reservations were turned over to the navy, except for a small section on the point previously reserved for the National Park Service and an expanded post burial ground that became the San Diego National Cemetery.

Thursday October 2: Fort Rosecrans

Fort Rosecrans today can really be divided into four distinct sections, each with a unique set of coast artillery structures divided between the Endicott, Taft, inter-war, and WWII building programs. The first area and the one most commonly associated with Fort Rosecrans is the lower garrison or harbor side of the fort; now called Naval Base Point Loma. This area contains most of the pre-WWII batteries, as well as cantonment and support structures dating back to 1900. The remains of an older Spanish fortification called Fort Guijarros (1797 - 1838) are also on this site.

We gathered in the hotel lobby at 8 AM to board our chartered bus to be transported over to old main post area of Fort Rosecrans, now the center of operation for the submarine support facility at Point Loma. Our first stop was Battery Calef-Wilkeson (4 x 10 inch DC), a very early disappearing gun battery whose original circular gun platforms were never expanded. The navy uses the battery for storage; some of the emplacements were filled with stuff and the top of the battery is used for parking. There are some gems in the battery, including sets of nearly pristine balanced-platform hoist platforms and motors.



Battery Calef-Wilkeson



Battery Calef-Wilkeson

Other stops in the morning tour included Battery McGrath (2 x 5 inch BP, modified for 2 x 3 inch Ped), the mine primary station, and Battery White (4 x 12 inch mortars). Battery White had some interesting signage and was a good example of using the terrain to position the two pits connected by a tunnel. A final short stop at the submarine veteran memorial and we were off to the west side of the point. As with all stops on navy property, we were warned about being careful not to take pictures towards the docks.



Battery White



Battery White



This sign at Battery White says it all!

Next stops were on the "Pacific Side" of old Fort Rosecrans. This area is no longer directly accessible from the main post because it is separated by the Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery. The Pacific side of the fort contains many of the pre-WWII searchlight stations, fire control structures, and newer batteries. Today this area contains a number of navy and DOD laboratories and access is very restricted. After a lunch stop, we headed out to visit Battery Strong (2 x 8 inch BC), but could only look at the outside of the back of the battery. We stopped at BCN 237 (Woodward) (2 x 6 inch SBC), viewing the outside only. We were not able to visit Battery Whistler (4 x 12 inch mortars).



Original barracks of Fort Rosecrans



Fire control stations



Battery Strong

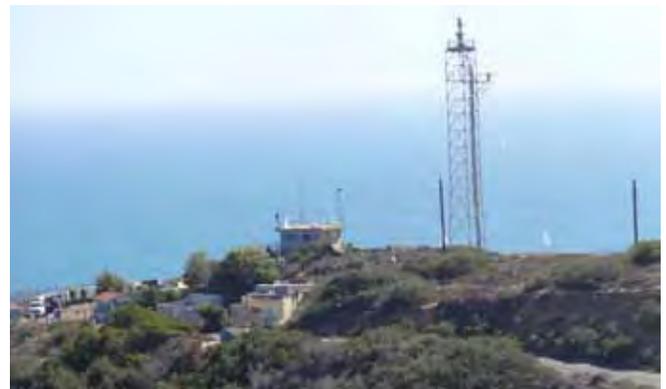


Battery Ashburn

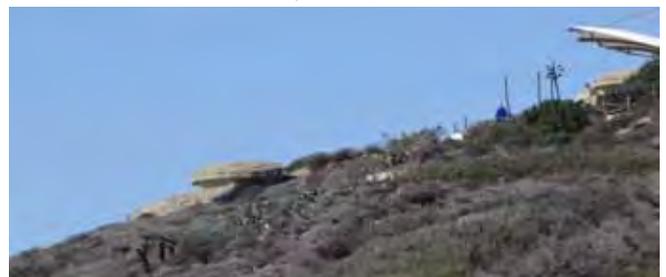
Our final stop for the day was Cabrillo National Monument, out on the fort's southern tip. This area has a wide variety of fire control-related sites and some of the smaller batteries used to control the harbor entrance. We moved on past the back of Battery Ashburn/BCN 126 (2 x 16 inch BC), which was off limits, down to Battery Point Loma (4 x 155 mm GPF on PM) a relatively intact (though partially buried) WWII Panama mount battery, and one of the better preserved "disappearing" searchlight emplacements. One of the Battery Point Loma Panama mounts



Groupment 2 station



Battery Humphries



WWI-era fire control stations at Cabrillo NM



Battery Point Loma

has been uncovered and the tops of the ammunition storage bunkers can be seen. After a brief stop at Cabrillo Monument visitor center we headed out to visit the G2 station and the outside of Battery Humphreys/BCN 238 (2 x 6 inch SBC). We then visited the remaining fire control stations, searchlight shelters, and the radio room on Cabrillo National Monument. Before heading back to our hotel, Eileen Martinez, the chief of interpretation, who told the group that Cabrillo National Monument is renewing its commitment to increasing their interpretation of the military history of Point Loma.

At the hotel, we gathered for a few more presentations after dinner and an overview of the next days' events.

Friday October 3: Fort Emory

In October 1942 the army acquired 412 acres at Coronado Heights and on December 14, 1942, this site was officially designated Fort Emory in honor of Brigadier General William Helmsley Emory. Fort Emory was a sub-post of Fort Rosecrans. Two gun batteries were built on the site along with barracks and

support facilities. Today Fort Emory is used by the navy as a radio station and training facility.

We started with another 8 AM departure on the tour bus, which took us over to Coronado, past Naval Base San Diego, where we picked up our navy escorts for our trip out to the ex-Fort Emory reservation, now a navy training facility. After some discussion of the ground rules for photography, we were able to visit the outside of Battery 134 (2 x 16 inch BC, never armed), the PSR for Battery 134, and Battery Grant/BCN 239 (2 x 6 inch SBC). The general theme for most of the navy owned items was that we were not allowed inside most of the larger batteries as they were being used.

Returning to the hotel, we made the 2-3 hour drive to San Pedro and the DoubleTree Hotel at Via Cabrillo Marina on what once was the bottom-side reservation of Fort MacArthur. We met for our annual banquet and business meeting and a short briefing on what we would be seeing the next day at the old upper reservation of Fort MacArthur.

The Harbor Defenses of Los Angeles

San Pedro Bay was first visited by Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo in his 1542 exploration, but it use as a harbor did not begin until the settlement of area was begun with the establishment of a mission in 1771 and a pueblo in 1781. San Pedro Bay, which was not a protected harbor, did not emerge as a major commercial harbor until a series of breakwaters were completed in 1900. With the growing network of roads, rails, and shipping, Los Angeles became an important shipping location that warranted harbor defenses that were authorized in 1910. By 1919, the location received four 14-inch guns, eight 12-inch mortars, mine defenses (never installed), and four 3-inch guns in batteries. The post, built on two separate reservations, was named Fort MacArthur after Civil War and Philippine Insurrection veteran Lt. Gen. Arthur MacArthur in 1914. The harbor defenses were supplemented with two 14-inch railway guns after 1925, and greatly expanded during WW2 with three 6-inch batteries and two 16-inch batteries, along with a large number of 155 mm and AMTB batteries. Following WWII Fort MacArthur continued to serve as a training post, then as a Nike missile brigade HQ through 1972. As



Battery 134



The Plotting & Spotting Room for Battery 134



Battery Grant



The Battleship Iowa at her berth in San Pedro

the Nike program was phased out, Fort MacArthur's army role ended, and some of the lands were transferred to the City of Los Angeles, with the main housing area becoming a housing area for the Los Angeles Air Force Base in 1982.

Saturday October 4: Fort MacArthur Upper Reservation and Whites Point Reservation

Fort MacArthur is divided into a number of discontinuous reservations commonly referred to the Lower, Middle, Upper, and White Point reservations. The Fort MacArthur Reservations hold an important collection of coast artillery batteries and support structures mostly developed out of the "Panama Style" battery design associated with the major "Taft"-era gun batteries. One of the more fortunate aspects of the fort is how much original material survives and the physical condition of the structures. The Fort MacArthur Museum was the highlight of the tour, and the restored generator room is fantastic example of bringing this old equipment back to life.

Arriving at Battery Leary-Merriam (2 x 14 inch DC) at 8:30, we were met by the personnel of the Marine Exchange, which occupies the remodeled Nike HIPAR radar power room on top of the battery. After a short visit to the double fire control station in front of the battery, we headed down to visit the magazine area below, remodeled during WWII to become the harbor entrance command post for the Harbor Defenses of Los Angeles. A volunteer crew has done an extensive clean up of the junk that was



Battery Leary-Merriam interior

piled in the rooms, making this a much better visit than the last one 25 years ago. The battery was again modified in the 1950s for use as a Nike radar control site (Site LA-43 IFC), with the radar facilities built in and around Battery Leary's pit. A short journey to the north brought the group to Battery Barlow-Saxton (8 x 12 inch mortars), which was opened up by school district custodians.



Fire control stations in front of Battery Leary-Merriam



Battery Leary



Battery Barlow-Saxton



Battery Osgood: Breech from the USS Arkansas



Battery Osgood-Farley: Power room



Battery Osgood: Shell Room



Battery Osgood: Plotting room



Battery Osgood



Battery Farley: Radio Switchboard room



Battery Osgood: Battery commander's station



Taxi services in a circa 1918 truck



Battery Osgood: Small weapons display



Battery 241



Quad .50-caliber AA



Battery 241: Power panel



Mobile searchlight system



Battery 241: Generators

This battery, on the National Register of Historic Sites, is a sad poster child of neglect, the walls are covered in graffiti, and the pits are littered with thousands of empty spray paint cans.

For me the highlight of the trip was the time spent at the Fort MacArthur Museum. Housed on the grounds around and in the rooms of Battery Osgood-Farley (2 x 14 inch DC), the crew at the museum pulled out all the stops and had all their hardware out on display. They started with a display of several vehicles and searchlight/antiaircraft equipment that have been meticulously restored to operating condition. They also hosted a delightful lunch prepared on military portable cooking equipment. The CDSG members wandered around the grounds visiting the restored battery commander's station and plotting room, as well as a room that housed a small arms collection and radio/telephone communications equipment. For me a highlight was seeing (and hearing!!) the two GE 25 kW gas-powered generators running in the restored battery power room. This was followed by a trip in a WWI truck out to BCN 241 (2 x 6 inch SBC) and a visit

to its power room with its three Worthington Diesel generators in nearly pristine condition. The Fort MacArthur Museum Association folks are in charge of the interior of this battery and plan to use it for storage and restoration work, including trying to get one of the Worthingtons running in the future.

The final stop of the day was at the White Point Reservation and Battery Bunker/BCN 127 (2 x 16 inch BC). Planning for the construction of the White Point facilities began in 1917 with the development of a small parcel of land used to build base end stations for the guns on the Upper Reservation of Fort MacArthur. Over the years, the Army's ownership of this area would grow and by 1942 the entire property was under the control of the government. The museum association volunteers opened up the battery so we could walk through the magazines and power rooms, long empty. The site is being encroached on by Air Force housing built behind and above the battery, construction that has destroyed or buried Battery Bunker's PSR and the Taft-era fire control stations that were once behind the battery, although the BC station for Battery Bunker can be seen behind one of the houses. The magazines, missile assembly, and warhead buildings for Nike site LA-43L are still present, now part of the White Point Nature Preserve that makes up the remaining open space in the area.

Finishing up the conference was one more night of presentations.

Sunday October 5: Sea Bench and Long Point Military Reservations



Battery Bunker



Sea Bench FC stations



Nike Site LA-43 launch area at White Point



Battery Barnes



Fire control station above Long Point



Nike Site LA-55 Launch area

The final day of the conference involved more or less independent visits to the remaining fire control stations at the old Sea Bench Military Reservation, now a part of a nature preserve, and the Long Point Military Reservation, now a mixed use area by the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.

The Sea Bench fire control reservation of Fort MacArthur was acquired in 1917 for the construction of six Taft-era base end stations for the guns at Fort MacArthur. During WWII a large three-level station was added to support BCNs 127, 241, and 240. Today the area is under development for homes and coastal walking trails. One Taft-era station and the WWII three-level station remain today.

The military reservation at Long Point was also first acquired by the army in 1917 for the construction of six base end stations for the guns at Fort MacArthur. By WWII the area had expanded considerably. The Rancho Palos Verdes city hall is located in two of the Nike-era barracks and the city's cable TV station is located in the missile assembly building. The site includes Battery Barnes/BCN 240 (2 x 6 inch SBC), Nike launch and administrative area LA-55, and a complete set of 6 Taft-era fire control stations on the hillside overlooking Long Point.



St. Babs XXXII group photo at Battery White, Fort Rosecrans

Summary:

For a modest number of fortification structures at these two harbor defenses that are separated by 120 miles, there were a number of unique jewels that cannot be seen anywhere else in the continental US. The "Taft-era" mortar batteries and 14-inch DC batteries are the only ones in the continental US. The relatively intact status of Battery Osgood-Farley has made it a great place for restoration efforts, and the museum's collection of equipment and vehicles is outstanding. The trip went well and we were able to see at least the outside of most of the gun batteries and many of the fire control & searchlight structures remaining. Time has taken a toll, however. A number of Los Angeles structures have been destroyed or buried in the past 20 years, including the batteries at Bolsa Chica (BCN 242 and BCN 128), and some of the fire control stations at Whites Point and Sea Bench. The US Navy continues to use and modify the old gun batteries on its properties; there is even a plan to remove all the structures at Fort Emory to build a new training facility. So it was good to get to once again visit what is there.

I would like to thank Mike Fiorini and Joe Janesic for all their efforts in organizing and administrating this meeting. I know it was not easy!

On the San Diego side, thanks go to the US Navy PAOs who worked with us to make this happen, including Lt. Kelly Kohlhofer from the Judge Advocate General's office, Lt. Ben Addison from San Diego Naval District Public Affairs Office, and Jim Mugg from the Naval Facilities Department at Naval Base Point Loma. Our thanks as well go to Jon Nylander, PAO for the training area at Coronado, and to Marv Heinze, CDSG member and Special Assistant for Homeland Defense of the Mine Warfare Command, who helped with providing some key contacts, especially when it came to our visit to Fort Emory, and gave a great talk on the current status of mine warfare. At Cabrillo National Monument we are grateful to Superintendent Tom Workman and Chief of Interpretation Eileen Martinez, and to the volunteers of the San Diego Military History Association for their support.

At Los Angeles, thanks go to Fort MacArthur Museum Director Steve Nelson and his crew, specifically Dave Hancock, Dave Kyllonen, Dave Oneslager, and Chris Simich, for getting us into Battery Leary-Merriam, Battery Barlow-Saxton, Battery 241, and Battery Bunker. Also thanks to Capt. Kip Louttit, executive director of the Marine Exchange, for arranging our tour of Battery Leary-Merriam.

And, after all these years, the food at the Lighthouse Cafe at 39th and Pacific in San Pedro was just as good as I remember it, from the days when I used to volunteer at the Fort MacArthur Museum!

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Seacoast Artillery Weapons (Army Technical Manual 4-210, 13 Oct. 1944), hard cover reprint. \$25 / \$35

The Service of Coast Artillery, by F. Hines and F.W. Ward (1910), hardcover reprint \$40 / \$60

Permanent Fortifications and Sea-Coast Defenses, Congressional Report No. 62, U.S. House of Rep. (1862), hardcover reprint \$30 / \$45

American Seacoast Matériel, Ordnance Dept. Doc. #2042, (1922), Hardcover reprint \$45 / \$65

American Seacoast Defenses: A Reference Guide, Second Edition, edited by Mark Berhow (2004), softcover \$45 / \$80

The Endicott and Taft Reports, reprint of original reports of 1886, 1905, 1915, hardcover, with plates included in a separate paperback \$45/ \$80

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