



# The CDSG Newsletter



The Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. – May 2013



## Chairman's Message

Chris Zeeman

Greetings to all from New England, where spring has finally taken hold. Those fortunate few who were able to attend our annual conference this year in Florida got an early taste of summer. It was great to see you all again in person. For those of you who have not yet attended a conference – I strongly urge you to do so. It's a great way to meet new friends – and learn! Where else can you travel in the company of so many esteemed historians and experts? We have a number of special tours coming up, so I urge you to check out our website for more information.

Additionally, we are still in need of folks to participate in our CDSG Representative Program. We need people as our eyes and ears on the local level to keep us informed. Not only will you be helping the CDSG, but also your local forts. They often have questions or concerns, but do not know who to ask. As I mentioned previously, we have a number of noted experts within our group that are always eager to help out. If you already visit your local site, please consider providing a brief report on what the current conditions are. Perhaps include a few pictures if possible.

Finally – we are launching a contest for a new T-shirt design for the CDSG.

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## Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. Minutes of the 2013 Business Meeting

Norman Scarpula

The annual business meeting of the Coast Defense Study Group (CDSG) was held on April 26, 2013, at the Hampton Inn Pensacola Airport, Pensacola, FL. The meeting opened at 8:40 pm. The minutes of the 2012 business meeting as published in the August 2012 CDSG Newsletter were approved.

Alan Hardey reported on membership. CDSG has 343 individual, 30 organizational, and three free memberships, for a total of 376. Terry McGovern recognized and thanked the many volunteers who make the CDSG function.

Terry McGovern then provided the 2012 report of the CDSG Fund, a copy of which was provided to the attendees. In 2012, the Fund received \$4178 in gifts and made \$3825 in grants, leaving a balance of \$7638 at year-end. During 2012, the Fund made two major grants. The Fund provided \$2900 to the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge to help pay for moving a 16" gun barrel, and \$925 to the Museum of Natural History for repairs to the dock at Great Gull Island.

Terry McGovern then provided the unaudited 2012 financial report, showing a five-year surplus of approximately \$19,800, and year-end total assets, including CDSG Press inventory, of approximately \$81,500. The financial report was distributed to the

## CDSG Meeting and Tour Calendar

Please advise Terry McGovern of any additions or changes at [tcmcgovern@att.net](mailto:tcmcgovern@att.net)

CDSG Special Tour

June 8 - 19, 2013

Norway

Terry McGovern, [tcmcgovern@att.net](mailto:tcmcgovern@att.net)

CDSG Special Tour

February 22 - March 5, 2014

Manila Bay, the Philippines

Andy Grant, [wekagg@verizon.net](mailto:wekagg@verizon.net)

CDSG Annual Conference

October 1 - 5, 2014

Los Angeles /San Diego HDs

Mike Fiorini, [mrfiorini@comcast.net](mailto:mrfiorini@comcast.net)

CDSG Annual Conference

April 2015

Delaware River HD

Chris Zeeman, [c\\_zeeman@hotmail.com](mailto:c_zeeman@hotmail.com)

Proposed CDSG Special Tour

June 2015

Panama Canal Zone

Terry McGovern, [tcmcgovern@att.net](mailto:tcmcgovern@att.net)

## Other Meetings and Tours

August 31 - September 8, 2013

Slovenia and Palmanova

ECCOFORT Reg. Association Tour

Hans-Rudolf Neuman, [hrv.neumann@t-online.de](mailto:hrv.neumann@t-online.de)

September 6-9, 2013

Southwest Wales

Fortress Study Group Annual Conference

Jonathon Berry, [psgeditor@hotmail.com](mailto:psgeditor@hotmail.com)

September 2013

Zitadelle Spandau, Germany

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Festungsforschung Annual Meeting

Andreas Kupka, [anja.reichert@uni-trier.de](mailto:anja.reichert@uni-trier.de)

September 19-22, 2013

Association Vauban Tour

St.Gothard & St. Maurice

Mary Pierdait Fillie, [marie.pierdatfillie@laposte.net](mailto:marie.pierdatfillie@laposte.net)

October 18-19, 2013  
 Utrecht, the Netherlands  
 International Fortress Council Annual Meeting  
 Luc Fellay, lucfellay@bluewin.ch

October 2013  
 International Fortress Council Annual Meeting  
 Luc Fellay, lucfellay@bluewin.ch

November 9, 2013  
 CAMH Annual Conference  
 Prague, Czech Republic  
 Vladimir Kupka, kvh-prada@info.cz

February 2014  
 Sultanate of Oman  
 ICOFORT Germany Tour  
 Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumann@t-online.de

March 2014  
 Association Saint-Maurice d'Etudes Militaries Tour  
 Vietnam  
 Maurice Lovisa, president@www.asmem.ch

May 2014  
 Eastern Pyrenees, Spain and France  
 Fortress Study Group Overseas Tour  
 Mike and Ann Brock, kjp22@supanet.com

August 30 - September 6, 2014  
 Pula & Croatia  
 ECCOFORT Reg. Association Tour  
 Hans-Rudolf Neuman, hrv.neumann@t-online.de

September 2014  
 East Anglia  
 Fortress Study Group Annual Conference

September 2014  
 Koln (Cologne)  
 Deutsche Gesellschaft für Festungsforschung Annual Meeting  
 Andreas Kupka, anja.reichert@uni-trier.de

September 18 - 22, 2014  
 Association Saint-Maurice d'Etudes Militaries Tour  
 Maginot Line & Verdun  
 Maurice Lovisa, president@www.asmem.ch

October 2014  
 London  
 International Fortress Council Annual Meeting  
 Luc Fellay, lucfellay@bluewin.ch

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

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

attendees, and will be published after it is audited in the CDSG Newsletter. He noted that our membership has been declining over the past five years, down from 398 in 2008 to 376 in 2012. He asked that each member attending the conference recruit one new member during 2013. Also, he reported that we have placed advertisements in five military history magazines.

Terry McGovern then reported on the CDSG Press, noting that we are increasing the use of electronic publishing and printing on demand, rather than holding an inventory of printed books. He also said that we will soon need to order more T-shirts, and requested that members propose designs for them.

Mark Berhow reported that we have enough articles for our journal through the end of 2013, and encouraged members to write articles. Also, he said that he has revised the electronic publications so that the news and journals through 2012 now are on one DVD, and the most useful coast artillery documentation is on another DVD. He said that members who have older versions could order the revised versions by sending him \$10 and the paper covers from the older disks.

Gordon Bliss reported on preservation, saying that he had received no updates since the last Newsletter, and that he would collect and summarize member comments on Battery Cullum-Sevier at Fort Pickens for the National Park Service. Terry McGovern

added that the navy still has five 16" gun barrels at St. Julian's Creek, and that the deadline for donation of them is September 30, 2013. He noted that the cost to move one already-donated barrel from St. Julian's Creek to Cape Henlopen was approximately \$130,000. Karl Fritz reported that we need volunteers to be site representatives.

We then discussed future conferences and tours; dates, locations, and coordinators follow.

June 2013, Norway, Terry McGovern

February 22 – March 5, 2014, Philippines, Andy Grant. He noted that the cost is \$1430 plus airfare.

2014, Bermuda, Terry McGovern. He noted that this tour will be a joint tour with Fortress Study Group (FSG), and that the FSG would like to limit it to five participants from each organization.

June 2014, Aleutian Islands, Glenn Williford. Glenn is working with Valour Tours for this tour. The plan is to include Kiska, Attu, and Adak, and that the ten participants would live on a chartered boat for nine days. The cost will be approximately \$6000 per person, plus airfare to Anchorage, AK.

October 2014, CDSG annual conference, San Diego & Los Angeles, Mike Fiorini. Mike reported that he has obtained the best dates for a visit to Fort MacArthur, and that he will now try to get firm dates from the navy activities at San Diego.

2015 annual conference, Delaware River, Chris Zeeman.

Also, Terry McGovern asked if there was interest in a tour to Panama, and Glenn Williford solicited interest in tours to Guantanamo Bay and Puerto Rico.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

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### **Book on the Fortifications of Toul Reprinted**

Inge und Dieter Wernet <idw@swing.be>

The first edition of *Toul, die Geschichte einer französischen Lagerfestung* was sold out within a few months. Due to numerous requests we have decided to launch a reprint in small quantities. This is at our own expense and our own risk. For sample pages of the book and ordering information, please visit the web page of the Helios Verlag Aachen:

[http://www.helios-verlag.com/werke/titel/?&user\\_helios\\_pi1\[showUid\]=214&cHash=a78dd6961a](http://www.helios-verlag.com/werke/titel/?&user_helios_pi1[showUid]=214&cHash=a78dd6961a).

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### **Historic Fort Adams Ready for the 2013 Season**

Fort Adams officially opens for the season May 18 & 19, with a Civil War reenactment on both days. During your hour-long guided tour, you will have an opportunity to climb to the top the fort walls for beautiful views of Newport Harbor and the Newport Bridge, as well as exploring deep beneath the walls in the network of underground tunnels.

General admission for tours is \$12 for adults, \$6 for youth 6-17, and \$30 for a family (two adults and up to 4 youths). Youths 5 and under are free. Group rates are available. Call for reservations. Check the website for any additional tour times.

Historic Fort Adams is rapidly becoming Newport, Rhode Island's adventure learning destination. Geo-caching, team building, a new 400-foot zip line, as well as guided and self-guided tours are just a few of the new ways visitors will be able to experience the fort.

Historic Fort Adams is operated by the Fort Adams Trust, a 501(c) 3 non-profit with a mission to protect and promote the historic places and public spaces at the gateway to Narragansett Bay and Newport. This includes directing and supporting the stabilization, maintenance, and operation of Fort Adams as a public historic site.

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Now available as a PDF:

### **HDSF Field Guide, Second Edition**

Mathew Kent

A PDF version of *Harbor Defenses of San Francisco - A Field Guide 1890 to 1950, Second Edition*, is now available as a PDF download. If you have been on the fence wanting to buy a copy of the book, but have been hesitant due to the cost, this is the low-cost way to get a full electronic copy. Copies are available for immediately download from the following link: <http://www.blurb.com/b/3824849-harbor-defenses-of-san-francisco-a-field-guide-189> for \$25.00 USD.

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### **Fort Hancock Committee to Look at Uses for Buildings**

The National Park Service has appointed the Fort Hancock 21st Century Federal Advisory Committee to make recommendations for the future of the Fort Hancock Historic District, which essentially consists of the main post cantonment area. The committee's website is <http://www.forthancock21stcentury.org/> and all relevant information for the committee to include documents and ultimately recommendations are on that site. Information on the history of Fort Hancock and the historic district is at [http://www.forthancock21stcentury.org/about\\_fort\\_hancock](http://www.forthancock21stcentury.org/about_fort_hancock) and the list of buildings is at [http://www.forthancock21stcentury.org/real\\_property](http://www.forthancock21stcentury.org/real_property). The members are listed at: <http://www.forthancock21stcentury.org/members>. One CDSG member, COL Shawn Welch, is a member of the committee. The meetings are public and comments can be sent directly to [forthancock21stcentury@yahoo.com](mailto:forthancock21stcentury@yahoo.com) or on the blog at [www.forthancock21stcentury.org/discuss](http://www.forthancock21stcentury.org/discuss). CDSG members may also contact COL Welch at [shawn.welch@armygroundforces.org](mailto:shawn.welch@armygroundforces.org) to provide comments.

The relevant points from the NPS press release (<http://www.nps.gov/gate/parknews/faca-fort-hancock.htm>) are summarized below:

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar has nominated 20 citizens to serve on the Gateway National Recreation Area Fort Hancock 21st Century Advisory Committee. This committee will provide recommendations for the historic reuse of more than 30 historic buildings in the Fort Hancock Historic Landmark District within Gateway's Sandy Hook Unit.

"This is a major step forward in the preservation of Fort Hancock," said Superintendent Linda Canzanelli. "To help these lovely historic buildings survive another century, the National Park Service needs the best ideas from the local, state and national organizations. This FACA group brings together the talent, experience and progressive spirit that will save Fort Hancock."

FACA allows in-depth involvement by community groups and regular input by the public. Members of the committee meet four to six times a year over a two or three-year term. Members serve without compensation but may receive travel reimbursement. Thirty applicants applied for the 20 positions on the committee, which includes at least one representative from each of the following: Borough of Highlands, NJ; Borough of Sea Bright, NJ; Middletown Township, NJ; Borough of Rumson, Monmouth County Freeholders, NJ; New Jersey natural resource community; local business interests; a National Preservation organization; State of New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office; Monmouth County Historical Commission; the real estate community; local recreational users of Sandy Hook; the education community; the hospitality community, and the scientific community. The committee will provide the secretary of the interior with recommendations for a long-term plan for protection of these critical resources, including reuse of the historic structures.

Federal law established the current FACA process in 1972 to provide advice to the executive branch of government, which includes the National Park Service. For more information about

the FACA law, see “FACA 101» on the General Services Administration website.

Secretary Salazar made the final decision for committee membership based on the following criteria: (1) ability to collaborate, (2) the ability to understand NPS management and policy, and (3) connection with local communities.

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## Gateway NRA and Hurricane Sandy

Terrance McGovern

On October 29, 2012, Hurricane Sandy’s storm surge greatly affected the U.S. National Park Service’s (NPS) Gateway National Recreation Area (NRA). This includes a number of park units located near the entrance to New York Harbor. The park was created in 1970s from several military bases. The coast artillery forts that were included were Fort Tilden (Far Rockaway, NY), Fort Wadsworth (Staten Island, NY), and Fort Hancock (Sandy Hook, NJ). Sandy’s storm surge impacted low-lying Fort Tilden and Fort Hancock the most, allowing seawater to penetrate, damaging the former military structures as well as wreaking havoc to the parks’ infrastructure (roads, water systems, electrical grid, sewage, telecommunications). Both parks were closed temporarily to the public; the Sandy Hook unit opened to the public on May 1, but Fort Tilden remains closed until later this summer. Fort Wadsworth received less damage, as most of this park is on a high bluff that was not affected by the storm surge. The NPS has an ongoing hurricane response effort to restore the park’s infrastructure so they can return to normal operation. Congress has provided a \$50.5-billion aid package to the hurricane-affected area, with the NPS receiving \$348 million for their restoration effort. Of that sum, \$135 million will be allocated to the Gateway NRA. The key question for the CDSG is how much of these funds will be spent on the stabilization and repair of the historic fortifications and related structures.

The NPS established an incident response and assessment team from its Washington offices and other locations to inventory the storm damages. The assessments were used to develop a storm-recovery-funding request to Congress. This team turned

to the CDSG for advice on the use and importance of various structures within these parks, as these assessment teams were not fully familiar with either the history or prior condition of the military features of these parks. Based on these interactions, we learned of some of the damage even though these parks are still closed to the public. Listed below are some of key storm damage and photographs at the former Fort Tilden and Fort Hancock.

### Fort Tilden

The ocean side of Fort Tilden received the most damage from the storm surge and wave action. A large portion of the sandy beach and dune system has disappeared. The military-constructed concrete road has been severely damaged, leaving the remains now as part of the beach. Behind the road, sand has been removed from around the six-inch gun batteries and support bunkers.



*Gun emplacement for Battery Kessler at Fort Tilden has been exposed and now faces directly onto the beach (source: Vincent Santucci, NPS)*

Their magazines were flooded with seawater as well. The former Nike launch site was flooded and its missile magazines are full of seawater. Flooding resulting in the park’s offices being trashed and the park is closed until further notice. Also damaged were the few remaining military buildings. Battery Harris (16-inch casemate) and its supporting structures received little damage from Hurricane Sandy due to their inland location.



*NPS Hurricane Response Team out in front of the visitor center at Fort Wadsworth (source: NPS photo)*



*6-inch gun firing during a drill at Battery Kessler at Fort Tilden during World War II (source: Ft. Tilden website)*

#### Fort Wadsworth

Due to Fort Wadsworth's location and high bluffs, it received less damages than Gateway NRA's other former forts. While the lower area was flooded, the primary issue was the large amount of trash deposited along its shoreline. The hurricane did damage the seawall around Battery Weed and without this protection the foundation to the fort is at risk.



*Battery Weed (or Fort Richmond) with Fort Tompkins above at Fort Wadsworth (source: NPS)*

Fort Wadsworth's primary role during Hurricane Sandy's recovery efforts was as the main staging area for NPS and other federal workers responding to the storm. Fort Wadsworth was the location of the Incident Command Post for the National Park Service Incident Management Team after the hurricane.



*NPS Director Jarvis arrives at Fort Wadsworth during the recovery efforts from Hurricane Sandy (Source: NPS)*

#### Fort Hancock

The former Fort Hancock and the Ordnance Proving Ground are located on Sandy Hook, NJ, a 6-mile barrier spit in Lower New York Bay. This narrow, low-lying spit was flooded from both sides by Hurricane Sandy's storm surge.



*Sandy Hook, NJ, looking north (Source: NJPeacock)*

This flooded most of the former fortifications and military buildings (some of which are being reused by non-profit organizations and the NPS itself), causing sustained water damage and required them to be pumped out. Some structures had as much as three to four feet of water surging through them, damaging doorways, stairwells, porches, and basements.



*Fort Hancock's former officer housing on the main post after Hurricane Sandy (Source: NPS)*

Contents such as telephones, computers, office equipment, furniture, and files (including the park historian's files) were ruined. Flooding also wiped out most utilities, which were housed in building basements or at ground level. The fresh water and sewage systems became inoperable, causing NPS employees who lived at Sandy Hook to be displaced from their homes.



*Fort Hancock's former Ordnance Corps complex after Hurricane Sandy (Source: NPS)*

Phone service and other utilities were also affected. Beach centers were hit particularly hard and dunes sustained major damage. The Multi-Use Path, which was ruptured at several points, needs major repairs. Boardwalks and vending centers at beaches such as Gunnison were damaged. The ferry dock has buckled and needs to be restored. Many NPS vehicles also were damaged.



Fort Hancock near the Coast Guard reservation and former Ordnance Corps complex (Source: NPS)

Key areas have been stabilized so their conditions do not worsen, including buildings that were flooded. The wastewater treatment system needs to be replaced before it will be operable. Beaches have been inspected for unexploded ordnances from Sandy Hook's military days; one such piece of ordnance was discovered and removed.



Remove of artillery shell uncovered by the storm surge at Sandy Hook (Source: NPS)

Sand is being moved from parking lots and structures back to the beach. New traffic and directional signs have been ordered and are being installed.



NPS vehicles damaged by the storm surge at Sandy Hook (Source: NPS)

Ranger Tom Hoffman, the long-serving historian at Sandy Hook, reports that he has lost almost all his files, books, report, photographs, CDSG Journals and Reprint books, basically all his coast artillery documents going back to the 1970s, as his offices were in the basement of the park's headquarters building.



Basement of the park headquarters building with the park historian's file room (Source: NPS)

Many of fort's batteries were flooded and due to low priority will be left to dry out naturally. This soaking with seawater will accelerate the rusting and corrosion of the metal rebar, metal fittings, and doors.



Battery Granger at Fort Hancock, flooded by the storm surge (source: Vincent Santucci, NPS)

It was reported that "Nine-Gun Battery" of disappearing gun emplacements and Battery Granger are flooded, while the Dynamite Battery and Battery Potter appeared not be greatly affected by the storm surge. The storm impact on the ordnance proving emplacements and the rapid-fire batteries is unknown. The surge passed right over the top of Battery Gunnison, doing major damage to the beach concession building next to the battery, but the interior of the battery was not flooded. The lack of electrical power does threaten the contents of restored rooms inside the battery as dehumidifiers are not functioning. Power has been restored to 65% of the park and fresh water is now available.





*The area around Battery Gunnison was impacted by the storm surge (Source: NPS)*

Nike Launch Site NY-56 was damaged by erosion from the storm surge as well as flooding of its missile magazines. The shoreline is now at the edge of the missile magazines.



*Nike Launch Site NY-56 at Fort Hancock has been exposed and now faces directly onto the beach (Source: Vincent Santucci, NPS)*

If you have additional information about the damage to Gateway NRA, please let Terry McGovern at [tcmcgovern@att.net](mailto:tcmcgovern@att.net) know so we can provide additional updates to our membership. We hope that NPS will use some of their Hurricane Sandy funding to return the historic fortifications and supporting structures to their pre-storm conditions. For example, only \$35 million has been allocated to restore the Sandy Hook NPS unit; after repairing beaches and utilities there will be limited funds for historic structures. We hope that they will not declare them “ruins” and fence them off and let them suffer by neglect. We need to engage the NPS during this recovery period to make sure these sites are not forgotten and that “stabilization” does not mean destruction.



*The geese like the flood area around 9-Gun Battery, but we like our batteries dry. (Source: NPS)*

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## News From the Puget Sound Forts

Steven Kobylk & Alfred Chiswell

### Fort Casey: Seattle Pacific University

The WWII barracks rehabilitation project is 50% complete. The recreation hall, four barracks buildings, and mess hall are about 98% complete. Even though they need to meet modern ADA standards, from a few angles they look the same as in WWII. The mess hall has been expanded to seat about 200, but only those familiar with original images could see the difference in the exterior. Windows are double pane but cut to individual glass, and the frames are wood. The outside doors are period five-panel. The only items not yet installed are the outside evac ladders. The rest of the WWII barracks buildings will be rehabbed later this year. Thank you SPU!

### Fort Casey: Washington State Parks

Work on historical structures within CAC parks remains unfunded, even though abundant funds seem to be in available for recreation upgrades and volunteer host sites. No funds are available to even repair the past million-dollar restoration efforts at Battery Worth, and the battery continues to slowly return to its previous unrestored state. The railings on Gun No. 2 need replacement, volunteers are not qualified, funding is not available, and it is all a low priority.

A decade ago volunteers wanted to restore the balanced platform hoist. The state indicated that it would be part of the original battery restoration effort instead (2007-2008). Thanks to an outside consultant, volunteers, no matter what their background, were not considered qualified to carry out such a project. This year volunteers again indicated that since state parks was broke they could lead the effort for restoration at no cost to the state. Once again the request was denied and the project pushed back to 2014-2015 timeframe, IF funding is available.

At least there is some good news! The Ebey's Landing National Park Reserve has an annual grant program to restore outside structures of historical buildings within the reserve. Along with Ft. Casey Park Manager Jon Crimmins and Ranger Sarah Steen, I wrote and submitted a proposal to restore Battery Worth's 1915 Sewell-construction plotting room. The proposal was approved and fully funded. The work needs to be completed by the end of this year.

During land clearing for a new three-bay tractor shed, a metal ring was discovered under a five-inch-diameter tree trunk behind the ordnance building, about 10 feet west of the oil house. I was called in to investigate and discovered, with confirmation from Greg Hagge, that the ring is an elevation band from a 10-inch M1888 gun, as was mounted in Battery Kingsbury. Apparently it was used as a fire ring since multiple burnt primers, brackets, bolts, and miscellaneous items were found in and adjacent to the band. For now the band remains on the ground near the site, untouched. State Parks indicated that the band cannot be moved again or cleaned or preserved in any manner until the state historical archeological personnel have examined it and verified it. For about a month now it has remained on the ground in full exposure to the weather. The hope is that State Parks will

investigate and release the elevation band for preservation by the time this is published.

At Battery Schenck, Pit B is currently being turned into a stage for singing and other performances to enhance the park's money making. Also, another plan is to turn Battery Valleau's ammunition magazines into a fort interpretative center – however funds are not currently available to electrify or heat the space. Multiple Boy Scout service projects have been very successful removing brush and cleaning gun batteries.

Fort Ebey

A chance walk in the woods discovered a fire hydrant kissing a tree, hidden from the road, surrounded by other trees. Looking around, the area was flat, and several building foundations near the hydrant were also uncovered under the brush. Trees are growing out of two of the foundations. Further investigation indicated the fire hydrant is the one in the only cantonment image of Ft. Ebey. The building footprints also match the image. By the next report I hope to have a sketch of most of the "missing" cantonment area at Ft. Ebey.

Fort Worden

Washington State Parks is still trying to resolve its budget problems. While there is a good chance State Parks may receive some monies from the state's general fund, it will be nowhere near the amount it has been in the past. The \$10-a-day or \$30-a-year "Discover Pass" sales have produced less than half what was expected. Fort Worden is one of the top three park sellers in the state, but it is also the top money-losing park if you count the upkeep of all of the historic buildings, and so is in danger of being closed.

The Coast Artillery Museum has sold about half the yearly passes sold at Fort Worden, which puts it in relative good shape for survival if the park is not closed. The museum has also repainted two of the 3-inch batteries in the original green, which also highlights the work CAM is doing on the park.

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**Virginia National Wildlife Refuge  
Moves 16-inch/50 Mark 7 Barrel  
into Battery Winslow**

*Members Match CDSG fund donation  
Terrance McGovern*

The CDSG Board of Directors approved a \$1,500 donation from the CDSG Fund to Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS) to help them pay for the final steps in moving and mounting a historic 16-inch/50 Mark 7 barrel at Cape Charles, VA, the former site of Fort John Custis. The CDSG Fund challenged our members to match these funds and they responded by donating \$1,400, so we were able to send a total of \$2,900 to the USFWS. USFWS staff worked quickly to put together a plan requesting one of the 16-inch/50 barrels – Number 393 – that was on the battleship USS *Missouri*, the ship where the Japanese signed surrender documents Sept. 2, 1945, ending World War II. This barrel is one of eight that were once mounted on *Iowa*-class battleships and have been stored at St.



Moving the 16-inch barrel down the main street at Cape Charles, VA.

Julien's Creek Naval Annex, part of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, since the 1950s.

The USFWS submitted a transfer/transportation plan to the U.S. Navy in late 2011 and this plan was approved by the U.S. Navy in January 2012. Alan Stanz, head of visitor services at the refuge at that time, and Sue Rice, the refuge manager, were able to convince USFWS that acquiring this barrel would be an excellent addition to the visitor's experience at the refuge and they had funds from visitor's fees and sales to pay for the move (at least as far as Cape Charles). Working with the Fort Miles Historical Association (FMHA) and Delaware State Parks, the USFWS was able to arrange for both their 16-inch/50 barrels to be lifted on trucks to take them to railroad cars that would be then transported on a barge across the Chesapeake Bay to Cape Charles (the barrels already have their own cradles). USFWS only had funds to transport its barrel to a rail yard at Cape Charles, awaiting more funding to move it the last 10 miles to former Battery Winslow at the refuge. Using the donation from the CDSG Fund and other local donations (both cash and in-kind), the barrel was moved the last 10 miles to Battery Winslow in April 2013. The barrel is now inside the gun house at Battery Winslow and a dedication ceremony is planned for May 25 at 2pm at the battery.



Moving the 16-inch barrel and cradle into Battery Winslow



The 16-inch barrel in place in Battery Winslow. The top of the cradles will be removed.

The task of finding good homes for the remaining 5 barrels (four off the USS *New Jersey* and one off the USS *Iowa*) is even more difficult, as many of the most likely candidates have already declined to take on the financial and organizational effort to move a 16-inch/50 barrel to their site. There is a possibility that a US Air Force fuse testing project will require the use of three barrels, but that will still leave two barrels to save. One possibility we are trying to develop with the State of Virginia is to place a barrel at the First Landing Memorial/Cape Henry Lighthouse at Cape Henry, VA, (near former Battery Ketchum at Fort Story). We need your help in finding a good home for these remaining barrels as the US Navy is only holding these barrels until September 30, 2013. They will then be auction off for scrap. Please contact Terry McGovern at 703/934-3661 or [tcmgovern@att.net](mailto:tcmgovern@att.net) if you have a good home in mind for these 16-inch/50 barrels.



The five remaining 16-inch/50 Mark 7 barrels at St. Juliens Creek Naval Annex waiting for a new home. In the foreground is where the other three USS Missouri barrels sat for 60 years.

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## Update on the Former U.S. Army Ordnance Museum Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland

Terrance McGovern



Remains of the large display items at APG in October 2012 – Note the many empty cement pads  
– McGovern Collection

I recently had the opportunity to visit the former U.S. Army Ordnance Museum, located at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds (APG) in Maryland, with fellow CDSG member, Elliot Deutsch. As most of you know, Elliot has been “Mr. Ordnance Museum” as he and his wife have tried through the Ordnance Museum Foundation to assist the U.S. Army to develop a world-class ordnance and tank museum at APG. The most pressing matter was the preservation of the large display items that were stored outside, subject to deterioration due to exposure. Underfunding and poor leadership from the U.S. Army resulted in a museum that basically did not change from the early 1970s and since then saw most of the collection slowly rust away (though an effort to environmentally treat a portion of these artifacts and then store them away from public view was undertaken over about a 10-year period until the museum closed in 2010).

Just when one thought the U.S. Army Ordnance Museum could not be any less public friendly, it was decided during 2005 BRAC process to move the Ordnance School and Museum to Fort Lee in Petersburg, VA. The impact of this decision was the closing of the Ordnance Museum at the APG in September 2010 and movement of all the small artifacts and about 30% of artillery and tanks to Fort Lee. Unfortunately, there is no actual museum or display area at Fort Lee for the public to visit. Artifacts are stored



Last known location of the 6-inch M1905 gun on field carriage on October 3, 2012 – McGovern Collection



Missing German 12.8 cm FlaK 40 dual AA guns at APG – Only the wheeled platform remains today (see below for the guns formerly at APG.) The gun was cut off and sent to Ft Sill. – McGovern Collection



Elliot Detusch explains “his” 16-inch/50 to a foreign visitor – 10/3/12 – McGovern Collection



German 12.8 cm FlaK 40 dual AA guns that was formerly at APG



The front of the former U.S. Army Ordnance Museum and home of the future APG Museum – McGovern Collection



Newest addition to the APG collection is this bright yellow well remote control drilling for chemical munitions underground. – McGovern Collection



Rare old German armored vehicle with new “live” camouflage – 10/3/12 – McGovern Collection

in warehouses and there is no funding to construct a dedicated building or buildings for a new U.S. Army Ordnance Museum. The public can still visit the remaining outdoor displays at APG, but the museum itself is closed. The one remaining staff

member is working to reopen the museum building as the U.S. Army Aberdeen Proving Ground Museum, focusing on the history of the proving grounds (APG and Edgewood Arsenal) and the current tenants, especially the history of Army’s communications and electronics. The remaining outdoor displays are in poor



Restored tank originally from the Aberdeen ordnance collection at Fort Sill in 2013.

condition, as these are the artifacts that were not protected from the environment over the last 10 years. Also, some remaining displays have been transferred to the Fort Benning, GA, armor museum and the Fort Sill, OK, field artillery and ADA museums. As you can see from the photographs that are part of this article, the once impressive collection of armor and artillery has been greatly diminished. Key coast artillery items that remain on site are the 16-inch/50 Mark III gun on a barbette carriage (Elliot's gun) and the 155 mm GPF with carriage limber (including spades). The 3-inch M1911 dummy rapid-fire gun on Model 1912 carriage and the 6-inch M1905 gun on M1917A1 field carriage have been moved to Ft. Lee. It is unclear what large display items will remain and which will go elsewhere. Hopefully there is a plan, but right now these items are deteriorating daily.

According to un-named sources, the plan is to move all remaining large pieces to Anniston for storage, sometime this year if funding is available. The 16-inch gun and carriage will stay at Aberdeen. The other odd small mounts, the yellow truck, and the aircraft—all part of the new APG museum collection—will also remain. In the end all former Ordnance Museum large display items will be moved out (the atomic cannon too). The 28 cm K5 (E) Anzio-Annie is now at Fort Lee, along with the 12 in M1918



Remaining 155mm GPF with carriage limber at APG – Happy to put in my backyard? – McGovern Collection

RR gun formerly at Dahlgren, VA. Many artillery pieces and tanks have been sent to Fort Benning and Fort Sill. Others will go there in the future. The Ordnance Museum collection as it was at APG will never again be what it was. The intent is to have and keep all large display pieces under cover in the future. They are working to be in a position to re-establish the Ordnance Museum (renamed the US Army Ordnance Training and Heritage Center, USAOTHC) at Fort Lee when a new building can be funded. At this time it is planned to fund a building for the ADA at Fort Sill first, then the building for the armor museum at Fort Benning. The Ordnance Corps historical collection has the largest footprint and is planned for last. Funding for any of these appears unlikely until FY 2019 at this time. The funding situation is very fluid and the current national budget situation makes all speculation about the near-term solution very subject to change. For now the USAOTHC staff is supporting the Ordnance School as best they can. We are currently working on a temporary exhibit for the ordnance collection in the QM museum's rotating gallery. This will open in mid-June. It is a small space and there will be about five large artifacts and some small munitions and firearms for the exhibit.

\* \* \* \* \*

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The CDSG is pleased to offer custom-made hats, T-shirts and patches to our membership. Wearing these hats, T-shirts and patches are a great way to make others aware of the CDSG and its goals. It is also an excellent way to promote new memberships in the CDSG.

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Send all donations and proposals to:

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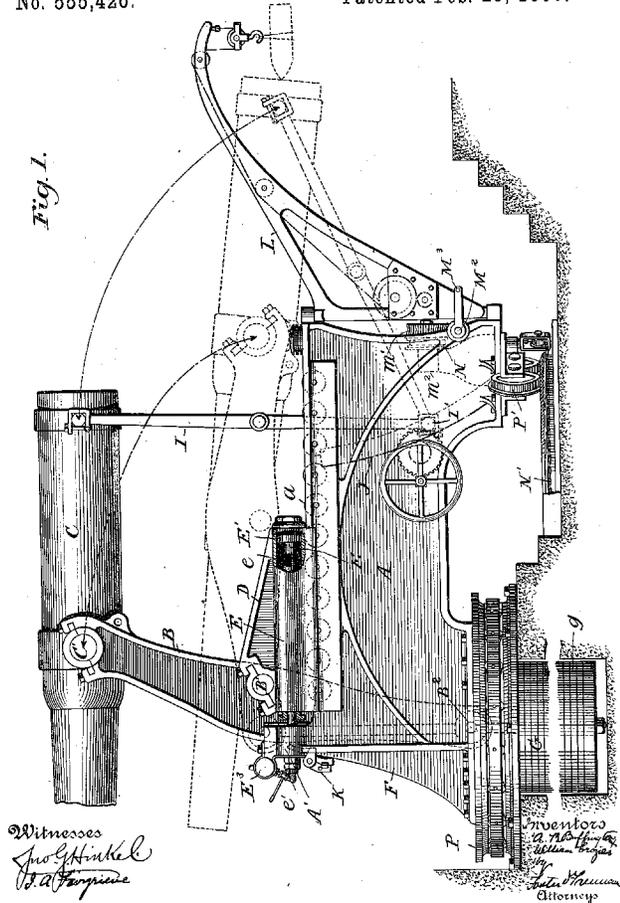
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\* \* \* \* \*

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The CDSG is a non-profit corporation formed to promote the study of coast defenses and fortifications, their history, architecture, technology, and strategic and tactical employment. The purposes of the group include educational research and documentation, preservation of historic sites, site interpretation, and assistance to other organizations interested in the preservation and interpretation of coast defense sites. Membership in the CDSG is open to any person interested in the study of the coast defenses and fortifications of the United States.

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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

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