



The CDSG Newsletter



The Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. — Spring 2023



Chairman's Message

Steven Waldron

Once again Mother Nature was pretty kind to the CDSG. Our 2023 Conference in Portland, Maine during the first week of May saw torrential rains during the period prior to the Conference. But by the time the conference began, all we experienced was a cold mist for the first two days and then beautiful sunny weather for the next four (although it was a little wet and dirty riding around Peaks Island on golf carts!) In one of the previous years we had a Nor'easter just before the Boston conference that piled tons of rocks on the street in front of the hotel that were cleared just hours before we pulled up. Last year in New Orleans, a tornado hit hours before our arrival. Our meeting in Narraganset Bay had bitter cold winds and snow squalls as we boarded our boat to Fort Greble, but once we debarked onto Dutch Island, the hills and tree cover made it a pleasant visit. These annual conferences and special trips take you to places you could never see on your own, the nightly presentations are fantastic, and the entire time the people you are with speak the same language as you (as opposed to your friends at home that think a battery is something in your car or flashlight!) Thanks to our Conference Chairman Mark Berhow for putting together a complicated boat schedule to get us to these incredible places, along with those who assisted him including Norm Scarpulla, Chuck Ruby, and Terry McGovern.

As those of you who regularly get updates on Fort Adams in Rhode Island already know, Chris Zeeman and his gang of volunteers have been doing some unbelievable clearing of overgrown gun emplacements. They're there nearly every Saturday of the year and, working with the Fort Adams Trust, have transformed one of our greatest fortifications into an absolute showcase. Thanks to all of you who take care of your local military history locations. People really appreciate everything you do.

On May 5th we held our annual Business Meeting. One of the most important items on the agenda was to determine the locations of our upcoming conferences, which is dependent on the people who volunteer to run them. If you are willing to assist with future meetings, please contact the Board. Look for further information in the newsletter on proposed locations for the next three years or more. We try to stay on a twenty-year cycle to visit all the locations in the continental United States. One final item—please vote for our future Board of Director on the included ballot.

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Alex M Holder, Jr. 1939-2023

Glen Williford

Our friend and compatriot, Alex M. Holder Jr. of Scituate, Massachusetts passed away at age 84 on Wednesday, February 22nd, 2023. Alex was one of the earliest enthusiastic supporters of the Coast Defense Study Group, making his first appearance at

CDSG Meeting and Tour Calendar

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

2023 CDSG Special Tour

September 9 - 18, 2023

Northern Poland

Terry McGovern, tcmcgovern@att.net

2024 CDSG Conference

May

Key West, Florida

2024 CDSG Special Tour

September

Puerto Rico

Terry McGovern, tcmcgovern@att.net

2025 CDSG Conference

Boston, Massachusetts

Other Meetings and Tours

June 6 - 10, 2023

Cherbourg, France

Association Vauban Annual Congress

Alain Monferrand, contact@association-vauban.org

September 7 - 10, 2023

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Festungsforschung Annual Meeting

Kufstein, Austria

Andres Kupka, akupka@juelich.de

September 13 - 18, 2023

Oahu, Hawaii

Valor Tours

Vicky Reynolds, valortours@yahoo.com

September 15 - 18, 2023

Bodensee, Limmat, & the Rhine

Association Saint-Maurice d'Etudes Militaires Annual Meeting

Col. EMG Schalbetter, president@www.esmem.ch

September 18 - 22, 2023

American Samoa

Valor Tours

Vicky Reynolds, valortours@yahoo.com

September 23 - October 12 2023
Rome
ECCOFORT Study Tour
Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumannqt@online.de

September 2023
Liege, Belgium
Association Vauban Study Tour
Alain Monferrand, contact@association-vauban.org

October 6 - 8, 2023
St. Augustine, Florida
Council on America's Military Past Annual Conference
Bridget Hart, bridgethshea@hotmail.com

October 20 - 23, 2023
Chatham, England (U.K.)
Fortress Study Group Annual Conference
International Fortress Council Annual Meeting
John Harris, chairman@fsgfort.org
Jeroen van der Werf, secretariat@internationalfortresscouncil.org

March 24 - April 4, 2024
ECCOFORT Study Tour
Israel & Cyprus
Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumannqt@online.de

April 17 - 21, 2024
INTERFEST annual Meeting
Torun, Poland
Oliver Zauzig, praesident@interfest.org

May 12 - 23, 2024
Fortress Study Group
Western Greece
Eric Cauchi, eric@eternalgreece.com

September 28 - October 6, 2024
ECCOFORT Study Tour
Amsterdam
Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumannqt@online.de

September 2024
Fortress Study GroupmStudy Tour
Cartagena, Spain
Allstair Graham Kerr, psgeitor@hotmail.com

February 2025
ECCOFORT Study Tour
Southern India
Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumannqt@online.de

September/October 2025
ECCOFORT Study Tour
Portugal
Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumannqt@online.de

our meeting in Portland in 1986. Always a fan of traveling, he attended most of our conferences and tours and helped organize more than a few. Alex thoroughly enjoyed the social aspects as much as the historical aspects. An open friend to all of us, he could always be counted on to provide rides at meetings as well as usually hosting an afterhours discussion forum. Even before the day's events would start you could usually count on him to join in for a full breakfast and critique of the upcoming agenda.

Alex was a prolific communicator. While he came late to the tools of the electronic age, in the early years he often wrote or called fellow students or U.S. coast artillery on a weekly basis. More than a few of us continued to receive his weekly "welfare check" phone calls late into his life, when it became obvious that he was more in need of these than the ones called. An important part of his knowledge pursuit was documenting as many gun battery sites as possible with his personal inspection and photographic record. He maybe went through more rolls of film and accumulated more 4x6 color prints than any of us. Usually a few of these, heavily marked with magic marker, would be included in a weekly envelope along with a cryptic request for information on "just what is this?"

More than anything, he was a true friend to a wide swath of the group's membership. Not just as a knowledgeable source of information on coast artillery (he was, after all, a retired army artillery officer) and in particular its location sites, but for being what buddies are ideally supposed to be – helpful individuals with a genuine concern and support for the welfare of their friends.

Alex was a deeply appreciated friend to many of us, and his presence will be most sorriely missed.

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Coast Defense Study Group Press 2022 Annual Report

Terrance McGovern, Chairman

2022 Reviewed

The CDSG Press and ePress only exists because of the volunteer efforts of its committee members. We need to thank all current the members of the CDSG Press - Mark Berhow, Terry McGovern, Jon Prostak, Tom Kavanagh, and Tom Batha for their long-term volunteer work for our organization.

CDSG ePress

We have added "Volume 36" (2022) of the *Coast Defense Journal* and *CDSG Newsletter* to our list of back issues. This volume is only available via a DVD or Dropbox which contains our entire *Journal/News* collection, which represents over 16,000 pages of coast defense articles for only \$55. Once you purchase this DVD/ Dropbox, CDSG Publications 1985-2022, you can buy yearly updates for only \$10. Our coast defense document collections, known collectively as "HD Records" (such as RCW, Engineer Notes, Quartermaster, and Annexes) is also available under our CDSG ePress label in PDF format (see references page at our web site, cds.org). The complete collection of these digital files is

available for \$250. These DVD/Dropbox are a digital collection of the key National Archives coast defense documents. These are great reference items and can help you write articles for our *Coast Defense Journal*. Single harbor defenses collection of these documents is also available at the cost of \$50 on one or two DVD or Dropbox. A companion digital product is our "CDSG Documents" DVD/Dropbox with a great collection of key coast artillery reports and manuals for only \$50.

CDSG Gear

While actually part of our Membership Committee activities, the CDSG Press handles the distribution of our CDSG Gear, such as T-Shirts (\$18), Patches (\$4), and Hats (\$20). Please purchase these items so you promote the CDSG to others and help grow our membership.

CDSG Press

Traditional printing of hundreds or thousands of copies of books and storing them in warehouses to be mailed to purchasers has greatly diminished in the publishing world with the advent of "Print on Demand" (POD) services. The CDSG Press has migrated to "Print on Demand" as well, allowing us to reduce upfront payments and elimination of almost all storage requirements. We only have our legacy reprints still in inventory and as these titles sell out, we are switching to "Print on Demand" printing.

Here is a summary of legacy reprint efforts to date: We have sold a total of 391 copies (99%) of our 1994 reprint book, "Notes on Seacoast Fortification Construction", out of our total press run of 396. We have several "reserve" copies that we are selling, but we need to decide if we will create a POD version. Our 1996 reprint book, "Seacoast Artillery Weapons", has sold 471 copies (100%) out of our press run of 471. We have gone ahead and created POD version which available today for sale. Our 1997 reprint, "Service of Coast Artillery" has sold 362 units (68%) out of 532 printed, leaving 170 copies on hand. Our 1998 reprint book, "Permanent Fortification and Seacoast Defenses" which covers the Third System of U.S. fortifications has sold 190 units (55%) out of a press run of 344, leaving 154 copies on hand. Our 2001 reprint project, "American Coast Artillery Material" has sold 284 units (70%) to date out of 404 books printed, leaving 120 copies on hand. Our 2007 project, "Endicott-Taft Report" has sold 259 books/plates (61%) to date out of a press run of 427, leaving 208 copies on hand. This leaves us with four reprint titles with large stocks on hand so please purchase a copy.

The CDSG Press's first original book was "American Seacoast Defenses – 1st Edition (ASD1) in 1999. This book sold very well so at 418 copies were sold. Replacing ASD1 was our 2004 project, "American Seacoast Defenses – 2nd Edition" (ASD2) has sold 503 books (100%) out of a press run of 503 by 2015. We now have ASD - 3rd Edition as a POD replacement.

Our "Print on Demand" efforts began 2011 with the "Artillerists and Engineers" book by Arthur Wade, which is printed by Lulu.com and sold by the CDSG Press, Lulu.com, and Amazon. Based on that experience, we undertook a larger "Print on Demand" project, the 3rd Edition of "American Seacoast Defenses" (ASD3) which is printed by Lulu.com, but only sold

by the CDSG Press and we only order a limited number of copies each time to handle member's orders as we can always have more printed-on demand. Mark has updated and expanded the range of seacoast defense information for the 3rd Edition (it is also available in PDF digital form for \$40 via FTP file transfer). Please place your order for the ASD3 so you will have the most comprehensive guide on your favorite subject.

We plan to continue to offer our reprint books through an "Print on Demand" service, but we do need to consider the number of future sales to justify the set-up costs to have these prints on demand titles. We have turned "Seacoast Artillery Weapons" book into a "Print on Demand" book, though this edition is softbound. This title is also now for sale through Amazon and other online retailers. You can also still order this book through the CDSG Press. We are consider doing the same for the "Notes on Seacoast Fortification Construction", but need to consider the demand for this title in making that decision.

We completed POD book titled "World War II Harbor Defenses of San Diego" by Bart Everett in 2021. This impressive 536-page work provides many details about coast defense efforts during WW2 that are only available because of Bart's research over the last 15 years. Bart is allowing the CDSG Press to publish this work and is donating his author's royalty to the CDSG Fund. This book is primarily available through Amazon for \$33.33 plus shipping. Also, available from the CDSG at \$50 including shipping.

2023 Plans

The CDSG Press is working on companion volume to the "American Seacoast Defenses: A Reference Guide" (ASD3). This publication is currently titled "American Seacoast Forts: A Directory to Modern American Seacoast Forts (1885-1950)". This work (ASF) will focus on the history, key features, location, and the current status/access of each American coast defense fort (using site maps and old & current aerial photos). The book will also include an introduction, battery listing, and sources. Terry McGovern and Mark Berhow are assembling this work. Once we finish the 1st draft, we will be circulating it to various regional CDSG members for their review and comments. Please contact Terry McGovern at tcmcgovern@att.net if you have information about your local fort or forts that you want to include and/or if you would like to review the manuscript.

Several proposals have been offered for future new CDSG Press projects. One such proposal is a collection of rare ordnance photographs and drawings from the archives of the Aberdeen Proving Grounds. This collection has been donated to CDSG Fund by the late Elliot Deutsch. This publication would be professionally printed and bound which will allow for high quality grey scale and/or color illustrations (not currently possible in the *Coast Defense Journal*). Another member has provided a collection of Coast Artillery Training Films. We are working providing them using electronic files via download or flash drives. We ask our membership to keep offering new ideas for the CDSG Press.

We plan to add "Volume 37" (2023) of the *Coast Defense Journal* and *CDSG Newsletter* to our DVD or Dropbox of back issues for a price of \$55. While the CDSG Press does not print new works on coast defenses that require a payment of royalties

at this time, the Redoubt Press will publish such works. An example, is the recently published, "Pacific Rampart – A History of Corregidor and Harbor Defenses of Manila and Subic Bay" by Glen Williford. Please contact Terry McGovern at tcmcgovern@att.net or 703/538-5403 if you have such a title that you would like to be considered.

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Endicott Battery Overhang Support Structure at Fort Fremont

Ted Panayotoff, Chair

Friends of Fort Fremont, Facilities Committee

Fort Fremont, an Endicott Period fort on St. Helena Island near Beaufort, South Carolina, was constructed in 1898 to 1900 for the defense of Port Royal Sound and the U.S. Naval Base on Parris Island. It has been owned by Beaufort County, South Carolina since 2004 after having been privately owned since the 1920's when it was closed and sold by the U.S. Army. Beaufort County designated the Fort Fremont site as a passive park requiring minimal development. In 2009, a non-profit organization, The Friends of Fort Fremont, was formed to work with Beaufort County to preserve and promote Fort Fremont as an educational, historical, natural, and cultural resource.

Most of the iron and steel elements of the Endicott Period structures at the two Fort Fremont batteries, (ladders, railings, supports, etc.), were removed for scrap, probably during WW 2. This has resulted in visitor safety and possible structural issues with the batteries. In the spring of 2022, a firm, Bennett Preservation Engineering, of Charleston, South Carolina, having experience with Endicott Period fort structures, was hired by the Friends of Fort Fremont, and partly funded by a CDSG Fund grant, to conduct an engineering survey of the two Fort Fremont batteries. This was completed in the summer of 2022 and the results forwarded to Beaufort County. The County then decided to address the most critical of the issues, the now unsupported concrete overhang at the #3-gun position of Battery Jesup. A new support structure was recommended. This structure would replace the original iron and steel supports removed in WW 2 and provide additional support to remediate the deterioration of the remaining structure over the last approximately 80 years. This project was completed by contractors working for Beaufort County in the spring of 2023. Painting of the new support structure, which also includes support columns in the passageway area below the overhang, remains to be decided.



Illustrations of the support structure recently added to the concrete overhang at gun position #3 at Battery Jesup, Fort Fremont. The project was undertaken by the Fort's owner, Beaufort County, South Carolina, as a direct result of the Engineering Survey made possible in part by a grant from the CDSG Fund. The Engineering Survey, funded in part by the CDSG grant, was accomplished by Bennett Preservation Engineering of Charleston, SC, a firm with extensive knowledge of Endicott period concrete structures. Not shown are additional support columns in the passageway area below the overhang.



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1/350 Blue Ridge Models Fort Drum Concrete Battleship El Fraile Island

<https://squadron.com/1-350-blue-ridge-models-fort-drum-concrete-battleship-el-fraile-island-preorder/>

MSRP: \$275.00



Product Description from website:: The Blue Ridge Models Fort Drum kit in 1/350 scale is an extremely unique piece of history that can be a key component of any collection! The kit includes a solid resin hull, resin parts sprues, a large 2-piece photo-etch set produced specifically for the Fort Drum, Brass Turned Barrels for the 14", 6", and 3" guns, ultra fine rigging line for

the cage mast and crane, Decals for the Turret Markings, MV Lenses for the Searchlights, and full color printed instructions.

*** Re-Issue - We are re-issuing this. Some things will be updated or changed. Please Note the packaging and some of the final parts of this version may differ from what is shown in the four very detailed reviews posted on the Blue Ridge website page above.

If you are interested in scale model coast artillery kits, this one seems to be worth checking out.



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The Army Eliminated the Coast Artillery Corps in 1950—It's Time to Bring it Back

Alec Rice and Elliot Pernula | 02.22.23

This article was originally published by the *Modern War Institute at West Point*. Refer to the link below for the original article and its embedded links to reference materials. <https://mwi.usma.edu/the-army-eliminated-the-coast-artillery-corps-in-1950-its-time-to-bring-it-back/>

The US Army has reevaluated the international threat landscape and responded by committing to the doctrine of Multi-Domain Operations (MDO). The evolution of the MDO concept resulted in the recent update to Field Manual (FM) 3-0, Operations in October 2022, which notably devotes an entire chapter to “Army Operations in Maritime Environments.” In so doing, the Army has shown a dim but dawning realization that its anticipated future of exposure to shipborne threats necessitates a capability long believed to be outdated. That capability is destroying maritime assets from the shore. In short, coast artillery.

The Army’s prioritization of the development of long-range precision fires, and in particular Strategic Mid-Range Fires, has reintroduced the dormant idea of surface-to-ship fires. Although this capability is on its 2030 horizon, the Army’s organizational culture and institutional thinking are slow to grasp the import of kinetically striking ships from shore.

In embracing MDO the Army continues to put lopsided emphasis on the cyber and space domains and the electromagnetic spectrum, presuming that the integration of the mundane domains of land, air, and sea has already been accomplished. Particularly for the Army this is not the case. The maritime domain

and its interrelationship with the land domain, for example, is mystery. Joint interoperability with the US Navy has been nearly totally ignored for decades—arguably since the end of World War II. But as the Army continues its pivot to preparing for large-scale combat operations and seeks ways to contribute to US strategic competition activities, it must undergo a radical change of both capability and mindset to remain a relevant and effective part of integrated deterrence.

Instead of viewing surface-to-ship fires as a sideshow capability to the sexier science-fiction domains married up at the boutique Multi-Domain Task Force level, the Army should place primacy on the coast artillery role. This calls for the reanimation of a modern Coast Artillery Corps.

The Demise of the Original Coast Artillery Corps

Up through World War II guarding the shore from attack by ship was a fundamental component of US national defense strategy, and a significant amount of limited defense resources were dedicated to the US Army Coast Artillery Corps. As inconceivable as it may seem now, just a century ago heavy (coast) artillery units and assets were significantly more numerous than those of light (field) artillery.

Beginning with World War II, the comparatively overwhelming might of the US Navy and the advent of long-range strategic airpower facilitated a doctrinal shift that characterized US defense the second half of the twentieth century. The United States would thenceforth achieve an unchallenged static defense of home territories by employing an active offensive capability that would be defined by overseas basing and forward operations. The risk of a sea invasion on the Atlantic or Pacific continental coasts was increasingly regarded as so fantastic that the very idea of a need to defend the land from attack by sea atrophied and eventually disappeared. The oceanic distances surrounding the North American continent were too immense, and the US Navy too powerful and globally present to conceivably be challenged by a rival naval force.

For three-quarters of a century, the United States has been able to wage limited-scope military conflicts throughout the world without having to provide significant combat power to protect its lines of communication. However, this reliance on overwhelming naval dominance, in conjunction with a fortuitous geographical location buttressed by massive oceans, has caused the United States to develop an operational perspective like that of the Athenians at the onset of the Peloponnesian War. Athens had walls and went to war believing that its navy, coupled with its extensive Delian League allies all around the Aegean Sea, would ensure that the war would be fought beyond its frontiers. This perspective held—until Sparta was able to defeat the Athenian navy and then capture the city of Athens.

The United States has neglected the need for deliberate static defensive measures. It has relied on the belief that naval power and a global network of partners will both deter large conflicts and enable the United States to prevail in any engagement far from home territory.

The overwhelming might of the US Navy in World War II and after rendered the original Army Coast Artillery Corps increas-

ingly obsolete. In conjunction, the ascent of strategic airpower and long-range bombing led to a shift to Army concentration on antiaircraft defense, until eventually US coastal defense units were dissolved in 1950. Coast artillery disappeared from the US arsenal because it was expensive, immobile, and irrelevant to the United States' postwar doctrinal shift.

However, geopolitical realities have changed and, as evidenced by the capabilities of both our adversaries and allies, coast artillery has evolved without the United States.

Mobile Surface-to-Ship Missiles: Not Your Grandfather's Coast Artillery

In essence, the United States determined the Army's Coast Artillery Corps was obsolete for three reasons. First, it was believed that future US military operations would be waged far from US territory through the employment of friendly-nation staging bases coupled with unrivaled naval supremacy. Second, because any naval engagements were expected to take place far from US territory, coast artillery assets would be better employed as air defense assets. Third, Coast Artillery Corps assets were inherently expensive, were difficult and time consuming to emplace, and could not be rapidly moved (if at all), so replacing them with missile assets would better support the national strategic posture in the developing nuclear age.

However, the modern coast artillery capabilities of both our allies and adversaries are not clunky, colossal cannons rooted in fortresses on craggy cliffs as in *The Guns of Navarone* or the Nazi defense occupied French coasts. Just as air defense has transformed from machine-guns shooting at propeller planes to PAC-3 missile systems capable of downing supersonic jets and intercontinental ballistic missiles, modern coast artillery has evolved.

Mobile surface-to-ship missile (SSM) capabilities are an integral part of the militaries of both of the United States' principal strategic competitors, Russia and China, and crucial to their antiaccess / area denial (A2/AD) strategies, particularly in the Pacific theater. The Russian armed forces field the Bal and the newer K-300P Bastion coastal defense missile systems. The Bal fires the Kh-35 antiship cruise missile with an estimated 260-kilometer range, while the Bastion fires the P-800 Onix missile with an estimated range of 300 kilometers.

Russia notably arrays these ground-launched antiship assets in the Kuril Island chain between the Sea of Okhotsk and the Pacific Ocean. Closely tying into its Arctic strategy, the Russian military deployed the Bastion to the illegally occupied Northern Territories of Japan in 2016 and to the Kuril Islands of Matua in 2021 and Paramushir in 2022.

Unimpeded by the strictures of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, the SSM capabilities developed by China are highly advanced. China has an independent People's Liberation Army Rocket Force, which has rapidly expanded in the past few decades and forms the backbone of China's A2/AD strategy. Perhaps the most notorious of its SSM weapons are the DF-21D antiship ballistic missile (known as the "carrier-killer") and the DF-26 "Guam-killer" antiship intermediate-range ballistic missile.

While these adversarial capabilities are significant, fortunately the US Army also has a crucial ally it can rely on and learn from in the modern coast artillery realm: Japan.

Japan's Surface-to-Ship Missile Regiments Allied Collaboration in Waiting

Recognizing its archipelagic geography and position as the backbone of the First and Second Island Chains, Japan has fielded SSM units for decades. Its recent defense commitment to augment this capability presents an ideal opportunity for the US Army to collaborate with the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) to develop integrated bilateral doctrine, planning, and exercises in a field it has long ignored.

The JGSDF currently fields five SSM regiments—three based in Hokkaido and one in Aomori prefecture in the north, and one in Kumamoto prefecture in the south. In recognition of increasingly aggressive Chinese naval activity, two new SSM regiments are to be stood up in Okinawa prefecture and Kyushu. In the past several years the JGSDF has also been proactively increasing basing of SSM batteries in the Nansei Islands near Taiwan, effectively forming overlapping concentric fields of fire covering maritime access from the East China Sea to the Pacific Ocean.

Although most regiments field the older Type 88 SSM, the future mainstay of Japanese missile capability is the Type 12 SSM. The Japanese Ministry of Defense is currently working to upgrade the Type 12 to extend its range from two hundred kilometers to nine hundred and beyond, as well as developing ship- and air-launched variants as part of its commitment to standoff missile "counterstrike capabilities."

Furthermore, the JGSDF has committed to even further augmenting its long-range fires capability in the coming years, echoing the US Army's own emphasis on long-range precision fires. In addition to its augmented Type 12 SSM capability, the JGSDF also intends to introduce units fielding hypersonic missiles and hypersonic glide vehicles for remote island defense as well.

Japan's well-established and burgeoning ground-based antiship capabilities provide ample reason and unparalleled opportunity for the Army to collaborate with the JGSDF in the field of coast artillery. The bilateral combination and coordination of long-range surface-to-ship munitions between the United States and Japan would present both a strong adversarial deterrent and a devastating lethal capability throughout the entire First and Second Island Chains.

The Coast Artillery Corps of Tomorrow

The US Army Coast Artillery Corps of tomorrow could combine operational reach and deployability as a light force capable of denying adversary use of key nautical terrain. The foundation for this capability has already been realized. The Army has already showcased its ability to conduct HIMARS rapid infiltration (HI-RAIN) missions, where M142 HIMARS (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System) platforms are delivered by C-17 aircraft, and then off-loaded, established in position, employed to engage targets, and extracted in under forty-five minutes. This capability, coupled with currently in-development ground-to-sea fires

capabilities, should be viewed as the harbinger of artillery yet to come. Together with the right operating concept, these capabilities would enable the Army to close sea lanes, defend littoral sea lines of communication, and project force in the Pacific.

Modern coast artillery should not be conceptualized and developed simply as a static defensive capability within US territorial confines, but as a forward projection construct that would enable the United States to safeguard and cooperate with partner nations while also, in the event of large-scale combat operations, serve as a forward deployable A2/AD capability.

The employment of land-based antiship missiles from expendable launch platforms that may be deployed to land masses throughout the world with minimal logistical forethought would provide the United States the ability to both secure its own lines of communication, and to potentially close or harry those of adversaries. That is, the logistics needed to train, equip, and deploy light antiship platforms is substantially less than that which is needed to deploy naval assets to cover the same areas.

This is a critical capability gap: China has been extending its Pacific view of hegemony like a game of Go. With each calculated step, it brings more land, populations, and military lines of communication under its influence. However, cheap, expendable, and rapidly deployable land-based antiship missile platforms would allow the United States to conceptually deter adversarial progress by projecting this capability. While deployability is the essential piece to this vision of a robust future coastal artillery capability, employing relatively cheap and ultimately expendable coastal artillery packages means that the United States may threaten strategic-level adversarial assets (ships) with tactical-level systems (M142 HIMARS platforms). In this, commanders would have the ability to better take calculated risks when employing antiship assets; it is more palatable to risk a \$5 million HIMARS platform to deny a littoral battlespace than it is to risk one destroyer that cost upward of \$3 billion.

A Coast Artillery Corps element deployed to a small island, be that in the Nansei Islands near Taiwan or the Aleutian Islands between the Arctic and Pacific Oceans, can effectively turn that position into an unsinkable operational asset capable of challenging adversarial strategic assets.

This rediscovered relevance, in combination with the ability to employ relatively low-cost and rapidly deployable land-based antiship missiles, should challenge the current unconscious Army prejudice against the concept of coast artillery and the development of a coherent and cohesive corps to reanimate this long-neglected crucial aspect of future warfare thoughtfully and systematically.

The Army Can't Miss the Boat

In warfare, land and sea have always been inextricably tied together. This is a lesson the Army has forgotten. In a theater such as the Pacific it is neither the sea nor the ground alone that is important—it is the interrelationship of the two that is crucial. It is mastery of the interplay of land and sea that will prove imperative in the future, as it did in the forgotten past.

Surface-to-ship fires is an essential, and currently poorly developed, element of the MDO construct. MDO cannot be fully

realized by a land force that cannot secure its local ingress and egress points for its sea lines of communication.

The employment of fires against moving naval targets requires significant technical proficiency coupled with leadership that understands the maritime implications of target engagement and resulting battle damage assessments. In short, the Army needs a corps capable of accurately employing ground-to-sea fires in support of operational goals in a manner that does not jeopardize strategic priorities.

This would require more than just new weapons and equipment, but also changes to organizational culture, training, and more. As the Army continues to prepare for large-scale combat operations and shed its infantry brigade-focused counterinsurgency culture, it will naturally search for its role in the largely maritime Indo-Pacific region. A central component should be long-range standoff missile capabilities that can target and engage surface, air, and maritime assets from concealed locations.

Re-creating the Coast Artillery Corps—with coherent and developed doctrine, tactics, training, manning, and ethos—seamlessly capable of combined and joint integration, is a necessary organizational step for the future Army. The service must widen its aperture beyond the idea of facing only an enemy ground force in land warfare. It needs to school itself on enemy maritime capabilities, tactics, and strategy. With this goal in mind, it should expand its officer education to include instruction on coastal geography, pathways, chokepoints, and the law of the sea, to name but a few fields.

Failure to recognize the potential promised by embracing the role of destroying ships from shore and forging a modern Coast Artillery Corps risks squandering an unparalleled opportunity for the Army to be a pillar of modern joint defense strategy and undermining its future Pacific relevance. In short, overlooking the military significance and immense potential of modern surface-to-ship fires will ultimately result in the Army missing the boat.

Major Alec Rice is an active duty US Army JAG Corps attorney currently assigned to the National Security Law Division, Office of the Judge Advocate General. He is a former chief of national security law for US Forces Japan and a graduate of the 66th Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Command and General Staff Course.

Major Elliot Pernula is an active duty US Army JAG Corps attorney currently serving as the chief of administrative law for the 3rd Infantry Division. He formerly served as the brigade judge advocate for the 75th Field Artillery Brigade and is a 2022 graduate of the US Army's Command General Staff Officer's Course.

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CDSG Fund

The CDSG Fund supports the efforts of the Coast Defense Study Group by raising funds for preservation and interpretation of American seacoast defenses. The CDSG Fund is seeking donations for projects supporting its goals.

Visit the CDSG.ORG website for more details.

The goals of the CDSG and CDSG Fund are the following:

- * Educational study of coast defenses
- * Technical research and documentation of coast defenses
- * Preservation of coast defense sites, equipment, and records for current and future generations
- * Accurate coast defense site interpretations
- * Assistance to groups interested in preservation and interpretation of coast defense sites

Donations are tax-deductible for federal tax purposes as the CDSG is a 501(c)(3) organization, and 100% of your gift will go to project grants. Major contributions are acknowledged annually. Make checks or money orders payable in US funds to: Coast Defense Study Group Fund or the CDSG Fund. Donations can also be made by credit card through the CDSG website at www.cdsg.org.

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Send Fund Project requests to:

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For membership information contact:

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P.O. Box 910, Rutland, MA 01543-0910

Phone: 508-845-9229

E-mail: cmhhq@aol.com

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www.fortressstudygroup.org

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The *CDSG Newsletter* is published quarterly by the Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. along with the *Coast Defense Journal*. Submissions for the newsletter should be sent to the editor or publisher below.

Submission deadlines are the first of the month in February, May, August, and November of each calendar year. All rights are reserved. Comments on business matters should be addressed directly to the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

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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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CSDG Press Books (\$ domestic / \$ international)

Notes on Seacoast Fortification Construction, by Col. Eben E. Winslow (GPO, 1920), hard cover reprint, with 29 plates included in a separate paperback. Both items: \$35 / \$45

Seacoast Artillery Weapons (Army Technical Manual 4-210, 13 Oct. 1944), paper back 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

The Endicott and Taft Reports, reprint of original reports of 1886, 1905, 1915, hardcover, with plates included in a separate paperback \$45/ \$95

Artillerists and Engineers, the Beginnings of American Seacoast Fortifications, 1794-1815, by Arthur P. Wade, paperback, (2010) \$25/ \$40

American Seacoast Defenses: A Reference Guide, Third Edition edited by Mark Berhow (2015), hardcover \$45 / \$95

Historic Fortifications Preservation Handbook, 2003 guide to preservation methods for concrete fortifications spiral bound softcover \$15 / \$70

WWII Harbor Defenses of San Diego, 2021 by H.R. Everett, available from Amazon, \$40 list price, (\$50 if ordered from CDSG, domestic shipping only).

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