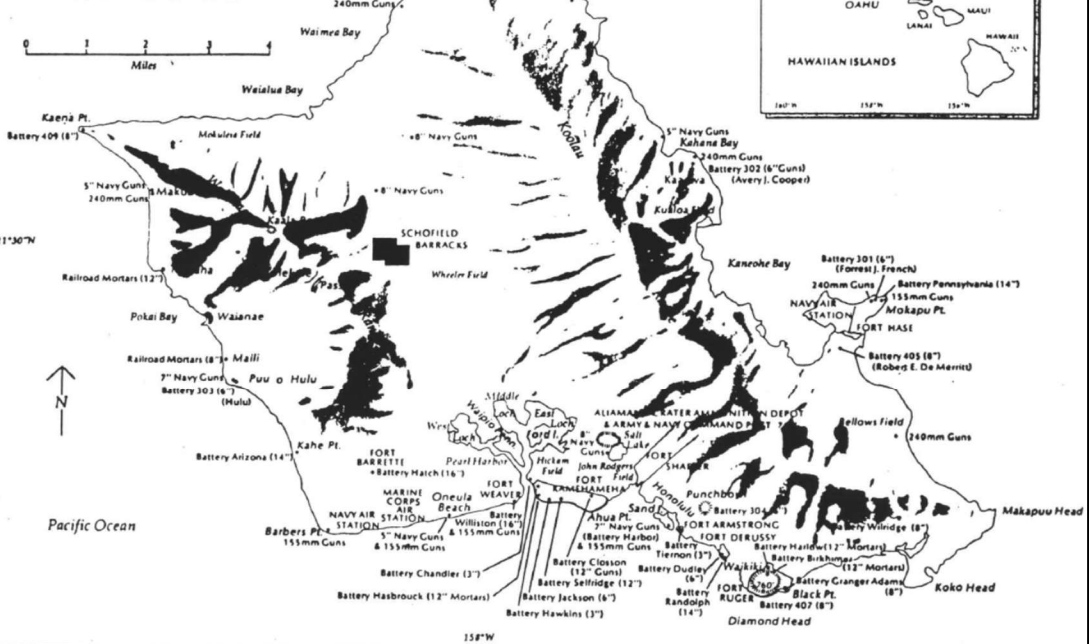


# Coast Defense Study Group

## 2026 Annual Conference to the Coast Defenses of Oahu



### COASTAL FORTIFICATIONS OF OAHU, HAWAII WORLD WAR II



**Coast Defense Study Group**  
**2026 Annual Conference to the Coast Defenses of the Oahu - Hawaii**  
**May 5 to May 10, 2026**  
**First Announcement – Nine Months Out**

The 2026 Annual CDSG conference will be to the former coastal defenses of Oahu, Hawaii (dates: May 5-10, 2026). The CDSG has never held an annual conference in Hawaii due to the challenges in gaining site permission for a large group and the travel costs for our members. Based on survey of our membership in 2024 and strong support at the 2025 Annual Conference in Boston, the CDSG Board has authorized this annual conference be undertaken in Hawaii. Please keep in mind that it would be very difficult to arrange to visit these sites on your own as most are closed to the public and locked-up behind welded or locked doors. Also, we are limiting attendance to the 50 members on a first paid basis, so please send your registration form and fee as soon as possible. We will not likely do this conference to Oahu again, so you should view this as a once in a lifetime experience!

Pearl Harbor on Oahu is the US Navy's most important Pacific base, so the US Army built a strong network of coast artillery forts and batteries on Oahu. These efforts begun shortly after the territory's occupation in 1907 through the tense pre-war period and the devastating Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 to the impressive wartime enhancements. At its culmination in 1945, Oahu boasted the strongest coast defenses of any American harbor. Many unique batteries were constructed such as the 14-inch turrets off the *USS Arizona* or the 8-inch turrets of the *USS Lexington* and *USS Saratoga*, as well as the land defense batteries with small caliber casemate emplacements. The island's defenses include the well-known Forts Ruger, DeRussy, Kamehameha, and Weaver with large caliber disappearing and barbette guns and mortars. The CDSG has undertaken extensive research from the National Archives and on-site investigations to organize this conference to the key surviving fortifications built between 1904 and 1945. The CDSG has reached out the US Navy, US Marine Corp, Hawaiian National Guard, and other groups to gain permission to visit the surviving elements of Oahu's WWII coast defenses. We have gained approval from the US Navy (for JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam), Battery Hatch, Battery Arizonia, Battery #303, Battery #304, Battery #405, and several other locations. We plan that by the end of the year we will have gain permission for all the key sites. Please remember many sites are still active military sites so our schedule is subject to change right up to the day we are scheduled to visit.

Our current plan is for a four-day conference with one add-on day for special sites. The schedule is as follows:

- Day Zero (May 5) – Arrive in Oahu and check-in to the hotel by 4pm for registration and orientation.
- Day One (May 6) will be the coast defenses on Western side of Oahu. This would include Fort Barrette (Battery Hatch), Battery Arizonia (14-inch turret) and Pu'u O Hulu (Battery #303/Battery Hulu).
- Day Two (May 7) would be to the coast defenses in the Central part of Oahu. This would be to JB-Pearl Harbor-Hickam (Batteries Hasbrouck, Hawkins, Jackson, Selfridge, and Closson) and to Ford Island (Batteries Adair and Boyd). We would also go to Sand Island to visit Battery Harbor (7-inch pedestal).
- Day Three (May 8) would be to the coast defenses on the Southern side of Oahu. This would include the Punchbowl (Battery #304 and Station D), Fort DeRussy (Battery Randolph and US Army Museum of Hawaii), and Fort Ruger (Batteries Harlow, Birkhimer, Dodge, Hulings, #407, and HDGP in the Mule Tunnel).
- Day Four (May 9) would be to the coast defenses on the Eastern side of Oahu. This would be Battery DeMerritt (#405), Marine Corp Base Hawaii (Battery Pennsylvania (14-inch turret), the HDGP, and Battery French (#301)), and Battery Cooper (#302). We would also have our annual business meeting and banquet that night, which would be the official end of the annual conference.



- On Day Five (May 10) we are having a special add-on day to OA-63-L/C Nike Site, Battery Riggs (8-inch turret), Battery Kirkpatrick (8-inch turret), and we would try to visit the Army-Navy Joint Command Center and Station C complex at the Aliamanu Crater. Depending on time available we might try to visit the Lehi Fire Control Complex at Diamond Head, but this site requires tickets and will be a very hard climb for some members. Members will be asked to carpool using their own rental vehicles on this day as these sites are hard to visit using a bus.
- Members could stay on extra days on their own to visit the Battleship Arizona Memorial/Visitor Center, Battleship Missouri Memorial, and Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum as well as other tourist sites.

The estimated costs per person (based on 50 members attending) would be airfare (\$1,300 round trip from Washington, DC), hotel (\$700/shared room), meals (\$400/2 meals per day) and, ground transport (\$300/at \$75 per day – we need to use coaches to meet site requirements) and other costs (including annual banquet, hand-out, access fees, and meeting room) (\$100/person) for a total around \$2,800 per person. There would be an additional transportation expense for the special add-on day for those attending and need to rent vehicles. We have so far identified shared conference costs which include the ground transportation, hotel meeting room, an annual banquet, permits, daily handouts, and other miscellaneous costs. These costs will vary depending on the number of members attending this conference, so we have not yet arrived at a final cost. **Therefore, we request each member or guest attending to pay the current estimated cost of US\$400.00 per person for these shared costs at this time to reserve a place at the conference.** We will then adjust the per attendee costs at the conference once we have final numbers, but we think the \$400 is very close to the final number. We ask that you complete the registration form and return it with a check made payable to the “Coast Defense Study Group” with memo that this check is for the “2026 Annual Conference”. You can also go to the CDSG Store at [www.cdsg.org/shop](http://www.cdsg.org/shop) to select the 2026 Annual Conference item and pay by credit card or PayPal your registration fee.

Most CDSG members will be flying to Oahu (it’s a long boat ride) to the Honolulu International Airport. Please remember to **arrange your own flights and hotel rooms for the conference.** You might want to rent shared rental vehicles to take you to non-conference sites and to your independent meals. The daily cost to park your vehicle at the hotel is \$21 plus tax (which the hotel reduced for us). The hotel runs a free shuttle to and from the airport which is about 10 minutes away.

We are staying at the **Best Western The Plaza Hotel** which is near the airport and the interstate at **3253 N Nimitz Highway, Honolulu, HI 96819**. While a good location for our field trips and low room prices (for Oahu) is not an exotic beach hotel, it’s an airport hotel surrounded by warehouses. The BW The Plaza Hotel has agreed to a daily rate of \$199 single or double occupancy, plus applicable taxes (which total to 18%), including free breakfast. This rate is also good for 5 days before and after the conference dates. For those who are attending, **you must call the BW The Plaza Hotel at 808-836-3636 or email to [reservations@bwhonolulu.com](mailto:reservations@bwhonolulu.com) to make reservations (ask for the CDSG 2026 Annual Conference rate) for number of nights you wish to stay.** You have until April 15, 2026 to book a room at this rate or you will subject to the market rate.

To assist in planning your travel to and from the conference, on-site registration will take place from 4pm to 6pm on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, with conference orientation session and coast defense presentations to follow. The formal conference ends at 10pm on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> with a special add-on day on May 10<sup>th</sup> ending at 7pm. Presentations will be held on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. Please consider giving a presentation during the conference

Please keep in mind that Oahu is a tropical and volcanic environment so it will be warm/humid and the ground is rarely flat. You will need to be able to walk on rough ground short distances to sites on road and trails, though we are not visiting fire control stations, 155mm Panama mounts, and other former sites that require climbing or walking long distances. You will be required to sign a Hold Harmless Agreement to attend the conference. Conference members wanting to tour the active military bases (such as JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam and Marine Corp Base Hawaii) will be required to complete a background form and provide their driver’s license details at least 30 days in advance of our visit so background checks can be performed by security personnel. You will also need to show your driver’s license upon entering these bases. **Foreign nationals** will need to complete a more detailed form and possibly be unable to gain clearance for these active bases. Ned Libby has agreed to coordinate this demanding process. We will need this info for all attending by April 1, 2026. You can always forgo those sites if you do not want to agree to these terms.

## CDSG 2026 Annual Conference Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Conference members wanting to tour the active military bases (such as JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam and Marine Corp Base Hawaii) will be required to complete a background form and provide their driver's license details at least 30 days in advance (April 1<sup>st</sup>) of our visit so background checks can be performed. You will also need to show your driver's license upon entering these bases. Ned Libby has agreed to coordinate this demanding process. Please us know if you have DOD ID (CAC or USID) that allows you to enter active military bases: CAC \_\_\_\_ or USID \_\_\_\_.

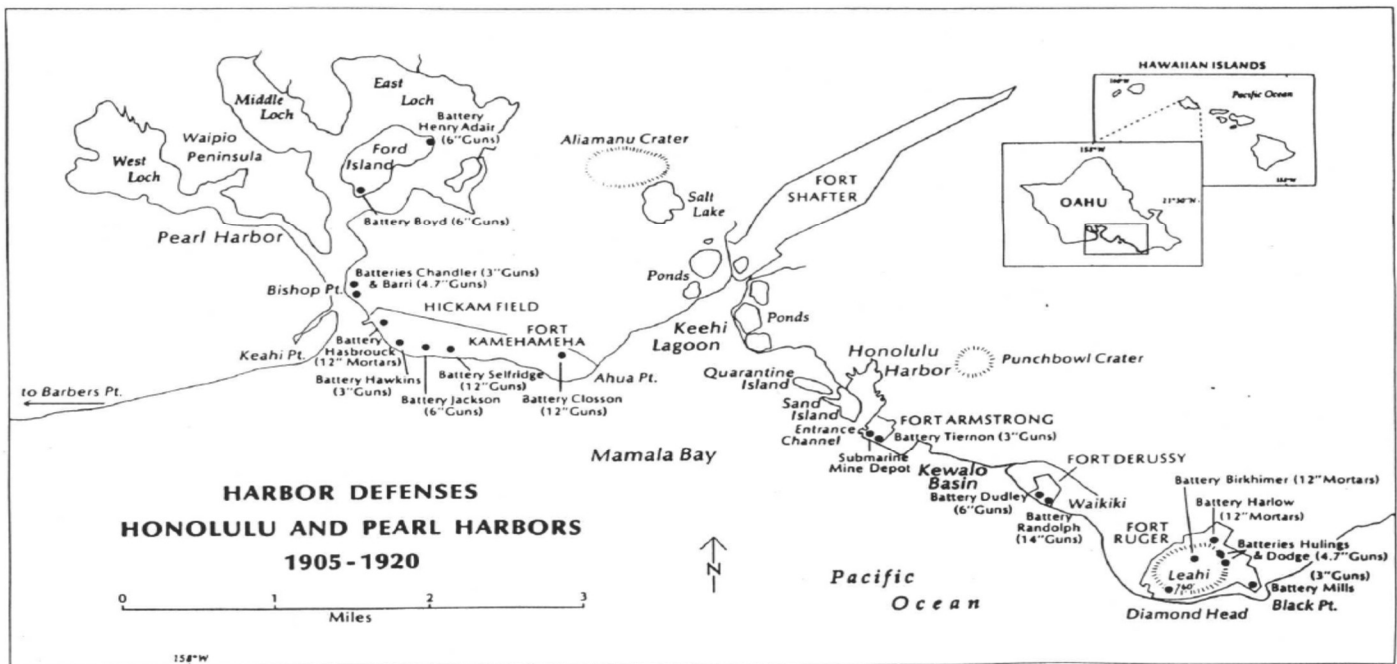
Presentations: Yes or No. If yes, the title(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Time & Equipment-needed: \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending Conference: \_\_\_\_\_ times \$400.00 (in US funds only) for a total of \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to "Coast Defense Study Group" and send to Terrance McGovern at 1700 Oak Lane, McLean, VA 22101 USA. You can also register and pay online using your credit card at [www.cdsg.org/shop/](http://www.cdsg.org/shop/)

Contact for questions: Terry McGovern 571-228-4193 [tcmcgovern@att.net](mailto:tcmcgovern@att.net)



**Special Event:** CDSG members attending the annual conference can arrange a helicopter photo-flight to overfly many of the key former coast defenses including the many hard to reach fire control stations. Charter rates are not cheap at \$1,600 per hour but the copters can take three plus the pilot to reduce the share cost. These flights would need to be done before or after the CDSG conference due to time requirements. Please contact Terry McGovern at [tcmcgovern@att.net](mailto:tcmcgovern@att.net) if interested.