

The CDSG Newsletter

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The Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. — Fall 2025

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Chairman's Message

This will be my final Chairman's Message. I would have liked to end with some profound message or pearl of wisdom, but no such thoughts have occurred to me. So therefore, I'm just going to go with the steady continuity approach, despite frequent chaotic times and the shrinking of many history oriented organizations, the CDSG has maintained a steady membership and publication schedule for many years and as the next chairman takes over in a couple of months, I have no doubt that will continue. We have many more examples of successful preservation and improvement of sites than the few setbacks. Some of the overgrown, abandoned sites I visited 30 plus years ago are now cleared and maintained examples to applaud.

So, if continue to move forward, don't let a temporary setback cause us to give up on a site, find ways to get the next generations involved, and keep exchanging information; our future should be positive.

Regards to all,
Gordon Bliss

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Result of 2025 CDSG Election

Terry McGovern, Teller

The CDSG Teller reports the election of Andy Grant as the next CDSG director. Gordon Bliss' term will end on October 1, 2025, while Andy's term will begin at that time and run for the next three years. Therefore, the directors for the next year will be Ned Libby, Paul Prentiss, and Andy Grant. They will select who will be Chairman of the Board for the coming year as well as the Chairmen for all the committees. The CDSG Board of Directors thanks both Andy Grant and Glen Milam for their willingness to serve the CDSG in this role. Next year's Nomination Committee for the 2026 election will be Norm Scarpulla (Chair), Gordon Bliss, and Steve Waldron.

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Board Selects Glen Milam as our next Membership & Promotion Chairman, as Quentin Schillare is stepping down as of October 1, 2025

Terry McGovern, Secretary/Treasurer

The CDSG Board has selected Glen Milam to be our new Membership & Promotion Chairman (starting October 1, 2025) as Quentin Schillare is stepping down from the role. Much thanks to Quentin for handling this key role for many years. Thanks to Glen for taking on this very important role as keeping track of our membership and collecting dues which are vital to the CDSG's existence.

CDSG Meeting and Tour Calendar

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

2026 CDSG Conference

May 5 - 10, 2025

Oahu, Hawaii

Terry McGovern, tcmcgovern@att.net

2027 CDSG Conference

Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island

Chris Zeeman, c_zeeman@hotmail.com

2028 CDSG Conference

San Francisco, California

Mark Berhow, berhowma@comcast.net

Other Meetings and Tours

September 6 - 8, 2025

Fortress Study Group Annual Meeting
Portsmouth England

David Clarke, chair@fortressstudygroup.org

September 15 - 17, 2025

FORTIC International Forum

Brijuni National Park, Pula Croatia

Dr. Mijo Mirkovic, fortic@unipu.hr

September 19 - 21, 2025

Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Festungsforschung Annual Meeting
Stade Germany

Andreas Kupka, akupka@juelich.de

September 19 - 22, 2025

Association Saint-Maurice d'Etudes Militaires Study Tour
Ubbaya Valley France

Col. EMG Schaletter, president@www.asmem.ch

September 20 - 28, 2025

ECCOFORT Study Tour
Portugal

Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumann@t-online.de

October 4 - 5, 2025

La Caponniere International Forum
Belfort France

Alain Monferrand, contact@association-vauban.org

October 7 - 10, 2025
 Association Vauban Study Tour
 Swiss Forts - Rhone
 Alain Monferrand, contact@association-vauban.org

October 10 - 14, 2025
 Fortress Study Group Study Tour
 Belgium
 David Clarke, chair@fortressstudygroup.org

October 23 - 26, 2025
 International Fortress Council Annual Meeting
 Alentajo, Portugal
 Jeroen van der Werf, secretariat@internationalfortresscouncil.org

April 16 - 18, 2026
 INTERFEST Annual Meeting
 Dresden Germany
 Oliver Zauzig, praesident@interfest.de

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Preservation Committee Report

Gordon Bliss

The uncertain situation concerning Plum Island and Fort Terry continues. The congressman for that district of Long Island is still working on ways of providing for some preservation protection but no progress so far. The county government may also be interested. The current understanding is that when the island is eventually transferred, though it must be a single transaction, that transaction can be to multiple parties. This will allow different organizations, such as the county and a university, and possibly others to each take over a part of the island as long as the transfers all occur at the same time.

Plum Island is a good example of where our interests may coincide with those of naturalist organizations. Though there may be times where they are viewed negatively by our group when they oppose restoration work or vegetation removal at a site, for situations like Fort Terry, which involves the whole island, their help may be key to saving it as they are much larger and have much more influence than our organization.

It has been announced that most on-post Army museums will be closed and their artifacts and displays moved elsewhere, most likely to storage. This includes the Coast Artillery Museum at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn. This is most unfortunate and in the current environment, it is unlikely we can do anything about it. Some of these museums are already almost impossible to visit unless you have an active DoD ID.

At Fort Mott, NJ, they are looking to restore the second steel fire control tower that they have on-site. Stay tuned for further information. Also there, the Bolling Smith printed material collection is being housed in the old post headquarters building. It is currently being organized and cataloged with some material being placed in protective coverings. There will be a reading room with the collection being stored in other rooms. Access is by appointment only. You can see what is currently cataloged at <https://fortmott.librarika.com/>

Regarding Fort Michie on Great Gull Island, there is a new conservation plan that can be read at <https://www.greatgull.org/>. It is focused on the tern habitat as you would expect since that is their mission and while there are some positive aspects regarding the remaining coast defense structures, there are also some concerning points about the possibility of removing some of them. This is still only a plan at this point and has not been finalized or implemented.

That's all that I have on my near-term list, but there are other items that I have not seen any news on recently. If you have updates on items I mentioned in my February column, please let me know and I will try to have up updates on those, the items above, and any new items that come up in my November column.

If you have a Preservation issue or question, or for further information on any of the items I've mentioned, contact the Preservation Committee Chair, Gordon Bliss, at preservation@cdsg.org.

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Summary of the 2025 Member Survey Responses

Three questions were posed to our membership via our 2025 election ballot to provide our members an opportunity to provide feedback to the Board of Directors. In this year's summary we are just providing the longer responses. All responses will be provided to the Board for their review.

While we did not request a special email survey of the CDSG membership in 2025 as we did in 2024 on where our member want to hold our future annual CDSG conferences, we are repeating the results to remind the membership of the results. Question One: The Board asked about holding our Annual Conference in Oahu, Hawaii in 2026. Thirty-three members respond they would attend an annual conference in Oahu, where fourteen responded they would not. Question Two: The Board also asked our membership to rank several harbor defenses in the order of preference where we would hold our annual conference. The HD of San Francisco received 17 first votes and 11 second votes, while the HD of Eastern Long Island Sound received 16 first votes and 5 second votes. Oahu was not part of the poll as it was in the first question. The Board will take into consideration this member's survey along with other factors such as having a local organizer and the ability to access as many coast defense sites as possible, when deciding on our future conference locations.

The first question was "How would you rate the CDSG's current publications and activities?". Sample responses are:

I think CDSG does an excellent job with the journal and activities like tours and conferences.

Great for what they are (the journal and newsletter) but there is little on-line. No forums, no way of finding an expert, or learning without buying a book/softcopy journal. How do you find (on-line) material in the decades of work done by CDSGers?

Outstanding. I look forward to everyone. I learned about CDSG when I became a volunteer at Fort Moultrie and love it.

Great! Always interesting and informative.

Extremely high quality and consistently so.

In my opinion they are very good. Maybe less articles on the technical aspects of Coast Artillery and more on fortifications units and biographies.

Publications are excellent. Recommend refreshed previously published articles that are technical in nature.

Publications are excellent. I personally would like to see a history of the Coast Artillery Corps, specifically 20th century.

The online lectures (FSG Webinars) are an excellent complement to CDSG's printed publications and activities.

Very Good! I enjoy the publications and plan to take part in future activities.

Publications superb as well as activities.

The second question was "What should be the future of the CDSG – more of the same or new goals/programs?": Sample responses are:

We do need to see how to reach more new members both young and old. I like what we do, but need to get the word out to more who would be interested.

The on-line presence needs to expand. More material for docents at sites would be appreciated.

Recruit younger members. I am working on a young neighbor.

Partner with Coastal Defense sites – get their staffs involved.

I like the current format, but how do we attract new members? Younger members? Partnerships? More/fewer social media?

Focus on recruiting new members. What about setting up CDSG info booths at air shows, military open houses?

More of the same. I feel the group is doing as much as it can – maybe more advertising? Getting the group's name out there more so we can gain more members.

More of same. Bring in young members/active duty/reserves military members – Maybe will reduce membership fees.

I would offer that local outreach on coast defense history at elementary and middle school should be offered to reinforce civics materials.

The future of the CDSG should remain on coastal defenses. I think the FortWiki website should be used to recruit people with a general interest in forts everywhere.

Agree with recruitment of the "next generation" of historians and site caregivers.

Do more fundraising for preservation project. Put a donate button on every page of the website. Encourage members and other potential donors to make the CDSG a beneficiary in their IRAs and Wills.

Make programs more inviting to younger folks.

More of the same. However, attracting new members is critical, and those individuals many have other ideas.

The CDSG should try to have some more localized events at one fort or something along those lines.

Preservation and interpretation are critical to future of our area of study. Unless we can improve preservation and interpretation of fortifications, they will ultimately be gone.

Focus on assisting local preservation groups.

Yes, keep up what we are doing.

Focus on generating interest with younger population – reach out to university/community college campuses, historical societies, reactor groups, etc. to bolster/recruit "new blood" in the CDSG.

Recruit young people, maybe provide a scholarship to attend conferences.

Education outreach to schools in the areas of major fortifications.

I enjoy the activities but would like to stay more connected. Maybe it would be good to do a Zoom gathering in October to say hello and to share stories.

Many of our members are of a "certain age" making it easy for them to donate to the CDSG Fund as a beneficiary in their retirement and/or brokerage accounts. This will help endure the Fund's long-term success. Any new programs that work toward that goal is a good one.

Preservation of coastal defenses sites and history must always be CDSG's goal.

The CDSG has failed to reach out to the owners of former coast defense sites - we need to educate those owners on the historic value and need to preserve these structures.

I have only been a member for a couple of years. Would be nice to meet local members to build some camaraderie and spread knowledge. An idea would be to link up a new member with an established member locally.

Maintain historical research, assist sites with preservation ideas and direction. Develop some sort of public awareness that historic fortifications are too valuable to remain unnoticed.

I like it the way it is, I would love to attend more of the tours.

The only thing I would add is a wider selection of items in the store as far as apparel, patches, etc. Would add T-Shirts/Hats specific to each year's conference.

I find the goals and programs aligned with my desires for the group.

Need youth & younger history members. They are out there – look at all the museums that are so popular.

The third question was "Where should the CDSG hold its future conferences and special tours – and would you organize one?". Sample responses are:

I like what we have been doing in the past. I am excited to get to go to Hawaii. I am not able to devote time to organizing a conference at this point.

I would love to help with the Oahu conference.

I defer to you. Applaud Hawaii.

Sure, upon the return to Charleston-Savannah-Jacksonville I will organize.

No suggestions, really. Since the "C" stands for Coast, we can't really do the Maginot Line or other defensive works. (Ed. The CDSG has had tour to the Maginot Line in the past).

Delaware Bay. I will attend Oahu in 2026.

Another Philippines tour would be nice. I could assist with organizing at Columbia River or Puget Sound defenses.

Tour to San Juan, Puerto Rico.

I cannot commit to organizing tours/activities. All of the offerings have been fantastic opportunities.

Tours to Bermuda, Puerto Rico, Gitmo, and Great Lakes.

The CDSG should hold a conference on Long Island NY. I could possibly assist in organizing a conference to some of the New England Harbor Defenses.

Anywhere we have a volunteer!

Really wish we could pull off an Alaskan visit – Dutch Harbor, Kodiak, Sitka, Seward – I know it may not be feasible, but a guy can dream!

From what I have seen, the conference locations and special tour locations have been excellent – I wish I had the time to join in the fun! I currently don't have time to organize functions.

Out West – California to Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and other Pacific Islands.

We should continue the loop of harbor defenses; however, we do need to begin screening out those locations that have seen substantial degradation of the fortifications or dramatic drop in access.

We should include a work party during every CDSG conference so we can put our backs where our mouth is on the preservation of fort site

The CDSG really needs to organize a tour to Alaska (there has never been a CDSG tour). There has been talk of a tour to Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands for the last several years but nothing has been offered to members. If we can organize tours to the Philippines, Oahu, and Panama, why cannot we organize tours to Alaska, and Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands?

Baltimore/Washington – Virginia Capes/Hampton Road (Yes, I live in Springfield, VA and I am centrally located for those sites.)

I would love to go to Hawaii or San Francisco. I would also like to see the Pensacola area.

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Ft. Monroe Coast Artillery Restoration CDSG Fund \$5,000 Challenge – Halfway to our Goal

Terry McGovern

Our members have donated \$2,925 so far to meet the \$5,000 challenge! We need \$2,075 to go more to gain the \$1 for every \$1 donation from a CDSG member up to \$5,000. The restoration project is almost complete and CDSG Fund will need to pay Marine Specially Painting, our painting contractor, soon. Please donate today to meet this \$5,000 challenge!

The Coast Defense Study Group Fund has agreed to arrange and fund the painting of three rare coast artillery guns for the Fort Monroe Authority (FMA) as they have not been painted in many years, and their existing coating systems are failing due to their location in a marine environment. The guns have also been subject to vandalism through placing graffiti on them and other minor damage. These rare guns (two 3-inch M1902M1 rapid fire guns and one 90mm AMTB M3 gun) are emplaced at Battery Irwin and Battery Parrott at Point Comfort, Fort Monroe (see photos). They were owned by the US Army Center of Military History (CMH) but are now being transferred to the FMA to be managed by the Casemate Museum. This past arrangement

has caused the CMH to look to the FMA to carry out this restoration work, while the FMA has not had the resources to undertake this project.

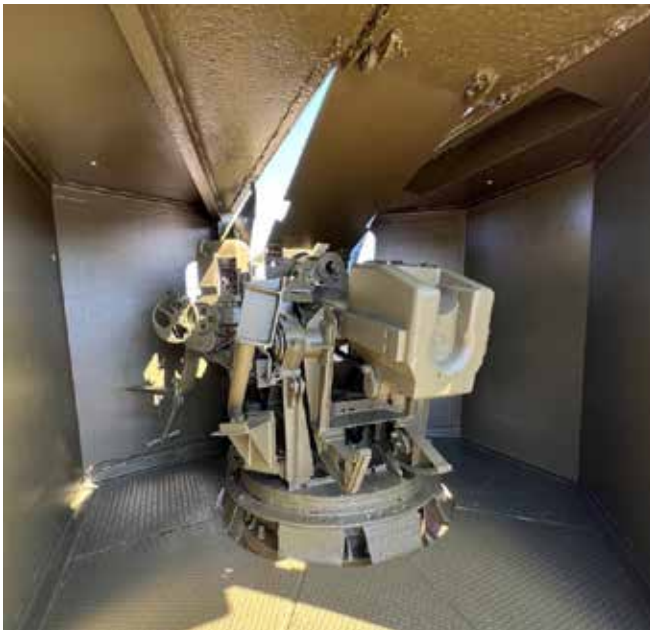
CDSG Fund has contracted with Marine Specially Painting (MSP) to undertake this work based on their past performance, especially for the US Navy, and their willingness to undertake some of this work as a charitable donation to the CDSG Fund (worth \$6,000). MSP and their paint supplier (Sherman-Williams Marine Coatings) have almost completed the restoration process (see photos). The based-on MSP's cost proposal this work will have a net cost of \$18,000. To jump start the fundraising from our membership, a CDSG member has offered to challenge our membership to donate for this project by pledging to give \$1 for every dollar donated up to \$5,000 over the next several months. This means that you need to start giving as soon as possible to raise \$5,000 so that we can raise at least \$10,000 towards this project. Please donate today to this restoration project by either sending your check or donating online. Make your checks or money orders payable in US funds to the CDSG Fund and mail it to CDSG Fund c/o Quentin Schillare 24624 W. 96th Street, Lenexa, KS 66227-7285 USA. Donations can also be made by credit card or PayPal via the CDSG website at <https://cdsg.org/donations/>. 100% of your donation will go to this key preservation project. Please donate today so we can make sure this rare coast artillery survives so future generations can see and touch actual coast artillery!



90mm M3 Fixed Mount today at Battery Parrott, Fort Monroe. AJ, the owner of MSP is inspecting his firm's workmanship.



90mm M3 Fixed Mount before restoration at Battery Parrott, Fort Monroe



The 90mm M3 Fixed Mount today after restoration by MSP.



90mm M3 Fixed Mount showing vandalism and serious steel deterioration



The 3-inch M1902M1 guns restored today at Battery Irwin, Fort Monroe, VA.



The two 3-inch M1902M1 guns awaiting their turn to be treated and coated



The 3-inch M1902M1 guns restored today at Battery Irwin, Fort Monroe, VA. These are the only surviving 3-inch M1902M1 guns (sporting their special WW2 shields).



Inside the 3-inch M1902M1 gun's shield before treating and coating gets underway

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Developments at Fort McKinley on Great Diamond Island Maine

Ben Mackey and Mark Berhow

In general terms, here's what is known about the current status of south fork mine complex:



Torpedo storehouse. Purchased by a developer a couple of years ago to create an 8 room annex to the Inn at Diamond Cove. Plans are for rooms only, no lobby, bar, or eating area in the building. Added to the National Historic Register in 2024.

Torpedo loading room foundation. Purchased at the same time as the storehouse. Preliminary plans said it would become a 3 bedroom cottage. No permits have been approved as of last month.

Dynamite room. It is currently in ruins, but some walls remain. No future plans have been released. It is most likely to be demolished. Owned by the homeowners association

Mine casemate. Owned by the homeowners association. The building is currently unoccupied. The previous resident was forced out by the city for various code violations, starting with lack of an occupancy permit. Plans for 2025 show it will be turned into an "amenity space" for people checking in to the storehouse inn as well as including a small meeting space. The developer received a zoning variance in March since it sits at ~10' above sea level and the city's minimum elevation there is 21'. The casemate was awash during the storms of Jan 2024.

Cable tank building foundation. Owned by the homeowners association. The old cable tank building at Fort McKinley, ME is being cleared out. Most of the old steel structure and

crane hardware will be scrapped. Since the contractor that was pulling stuff out has also brought out truck loads of gravel and sand, it is likely that they'll start by filling it in as a foundation. The landscape/septic site plan from a couple of years ago said it will become a "conservatory."

Hoist house. Owned by the homeowners association. No future plans have been released. Might be used as storage for the annex and the amenity space. Added to the National Historic Register in 2024.

Dock. Damaged by the storms of 2024 and currently unusable. Ownership is unclear.

Things get complicated in terms of the current state of the various plans. The developer owns the land under the storehouse and under the loading room with the homeowners association owning the other buildings and the surrounding land. The association has leased the land surrounding the complex to the developer for installation of a couple of septic fields, the use of the casemate, etc.

Another complicating factor is that Maine now restricts new construction close to the water. Anything built within 250' of the shoreline has to fit in the footprint of the old foundations. Otherwise, new structures are prohibited. The museum here will try to grab part of the crane for our outdoor collection. We're also making a play for the hoist mechanism. In other news, Portland has chosen a different developer to rebuild the Fort McKinley hospital but that sale hasn't been finalized yet. Initial plans for that are turning it into 9 condos.

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An interesting link to a youtube video from member Ian Wolfe:
USN Railway Batteries of WW1
(www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mgp_iZWnDmo)

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New Corps of Engineers History on the Defense of the Coast

A recent publication from the Corps of Engineers History Office will be of interest to the CDSG membership.

Shield for the Republic: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Defense of the Coast 1776-1950 Office Of History, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers, Alexandria, VA. 2024 **EH 870-1-83.**

An online vignette that summarizes the work is part of the 250th anniversary of Army Engineers series and can be accessed by this link:

<https://www.usace.army.mil/About/History/Historical-Vignettes/250th-Anniversary-Vignettes/25003-Corps-of-Engineers-and-Coastal-Defense/>

A PDF copy of the book can be downloaded from a link in the vignette.

Thanks to member Ron Plante for spotting the link.

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Oozlefinch Pins

Thanks to member Gene Scanlon we now have a set of 1 & half-inch oozlefinch pins. The Board of Directors has decided to give these pins to members who contribute \$150 or more to the CDSG Fund.



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American Seacoast Forts - A Directory: New books from the CDSG Press

Mark Berhow

A new set of books are being offered by the CDSG press. After years of effort, authors Terry McGovern, Mark Berhow, and Glen Williford have assembled an extensive guidebook to the modern American harbor defense forts, batteries, and locations.

American Seacoast Forts – A Directory with Period Military Maps 1890-1950 is a comprehensive visual and descriptive directory to the forts and batteries of America's concrete and steel-era seacoast defenses. This four volume hard cover set of books provides a detailed listing of all of the U. S. coastal fortifications covering the North Atlantic Coast (Volume 1 - 376 pp), the Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic and Gulf Coasts (Volume 2 - 316 pp), the Pacific Coast (Volume 3 - 264 pp), and Alaska and the Overseas Bases: Hawaii, the Philippines, the Panama Canal Zone, the Caribbean, Bermuda, and Newfoundland (Volume 4 - 336 pp).

Each volume includes a discussion of the design and function of American seacoast forts, including their historical development, objectives, armament, organization, arrangement, garrison life, as well as a detailed description of what can be found on the period military maps included. Twenty-one defenses of the major continental U. S. harbors and several overseas bases are described in the directory through a brief history of the fort or military reservation and a history of each gun or mortar battery. These listings are supported by period military maps and both historical and current aerial photographs. Heavily illustrated with over 1,200 maps, plans, and period photographs, this work is the most comprehensive coverage of American seacoast defenses in print. It is a worthy companion to the CDSG Press's earlier publication, *American Seacoast Defenses – A Reference Guide*.

The books are set up for print-on-demand services from IngramSpark printing company. They are hard bound, printed on 70 lb. paper with B&W maps and photographs. There are entries with maps and photographs of every armed location in each defended harbor.

The CDSG is offering the books with shipping for \$40 from the CDSG online shop or by check or money order using the flyer attached to the printed version of this newsletter. The books will retail for \$49.95 plus shipping and tax on Amazon and other sites.

An electronic PDF version is also available which has been expanded to include maps of the WWII-era fire control reservations and a comprehensive set of battery floor plans for a whopping 2300 pages of material. The PDF version is available by request for the purchase price of one print book. For more information on electronic versions please contact Mark Berhow (berhowma@cmsg.org).

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Global Military Museum Closures & Transitions: June 2025 Briefing

U.S. Army Center of Military History: Major Consolidations Ahead

In June 2025, the U.S. Army Center of Military History unveiled a sweeping plan to shutter or consolidate 29 of its 41 active-duty service museums over the next three years, citing the need to align resources with Pentagon priorities around "readiness and lethality."

Key highlights:

Among the proposed closures are the 82nd Airborne Division War Memorial Museum at Fort Bragg, NC, and the 2nd Cavalry Regiment Museum in Vilseck, Germany — both representing storied unit legacies.

Planning spans from Summer 2025 through September 2027, with two additional years devoted to artifact removal, storage, building turnover, and de-accessioning.

The cost-saving initiative projects \$114 million in savings over a decade, achieved through reduced staffing and facility maintenance. No current employees will be terminated; many will be reassigned or offered opportunities elsewhere.

Artifacts are slated for relocation to the twelve remaining museums or four training support centers—among them the National Museum of the U.S. Army at Fort Belvoir and the Army's Museum Support Centers at Anniston (SCA) and Fort Belvoir (SCB).

Oklahoma National Guard Museum: Closure for Relocation

The Oklahoma National Guard Museum closed in early June 2025 after nearly 50 years at Lincoln Park Armory in Oklahoma City.

A brandnew 40,000 sq ft facility is under construction less than a mile away, funded via a \$45 million legislative bond allocation approved in 2021. The new facility is on track for a Summer 2026 opening.

Pennsylvania Military Museum: YearLong Modernization
In Boalsburg, PA, the Pennsylvania Military Museum entered a complete modernization phase:

Closed to the public on December 8, 2024, with expected reopening in early 2026 after approximately 14 months of renovation.

The \$3.4 million project includes infrastructure upgrades—HVAC, doors, windows, geothermal energy systems, and state-of-the-art environmental controls to enhance artifact preservation.

Though the interior is closed, grounds remain open for community events and limited programming, including use of the theater space.

Army Medical Department Museum (AMEDD), San Antonio

The AMEDD Museum at Joint Base San Antonio closed on January 19, 2024, for a comprehensive renovation funded through an IMLS Save America's Treasures grant (matched by private fundraising).

Reopening is scheduled for June 2025, in time for the Army's 250th anniversary. The refreshed museum will feature updated galleries, new artifact displays—including previously unseen items—and the addition of an M113 armored ambulance outdoor exhibit.

Implications for Military History Preservation

Consolidating Unit Museums

The shift towards consolidation rather than duplication of unit-level museums raises critical questions regarding interpretive integrity. Historians may be concerned about preserving the narrative richness of lesser-known units when exhibits are amalgamated into larger collections.

Artifact Continuity & Archival Stewardship

Moving collections—from unit museums, archives, and deactivated exhibits—into large storage centers (like Anniston SCA or Fort Belvoir SCB) will test provenance tracking, accessibility for researchers, and the ability to restore narratives tied to specific units or regions.

Heritage & Community Engagement

Transitioning museums into the community or state-of-the-art facilities (e.g., in Oklahoma and Pennsylvania) presents opportunities to expand outreach, modernize interpretation, and preserve local stories. Yet these moves must balance modernization with continuity.

For Military Historians

These closures represent important structural shifts in how unit histories and artifacts are managed and interpreted. Analysts may want to examine:

Decision-making criteria used by the Army Center—visitor numbers, maintenance cost, relevance, strategic alignment.

Artifact migration strategies—how and where certain collections are stored; methods for future access.

Narrative integrity—preserving unit-specific stories when merged into broader exhibits.

Opportunities in new facilities—modern tools, interactive displays, and digital archives offer new models for historical engagement.

Military historians should monitor the coming decisions issued by Army Headquarters regarding which museums will move, consolidate, or permanently close. Detailed decisions on collection redistribution are expected throughout late 2025 and into 2026.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/us-army-plans-to-close-more-than-20-of-its-museums/ar-AA1GfhsD?ocid=BingHp01&ccvid=60348133a85649dac93b66ffab37e675&ei=27>

According to the article, those set to be closed include:

- Fort Huachuca, Arizona
- Fort Lewis, Washington
- White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico
- Fort Carson, Colorado
- Fort Riley, Kansas
- Fort Bliss, Texas
- Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
- Fort Knox, Kentucky
- Fort Stewart, Georgia
- Fort Drum, New York
- Fort Hamilton, New York
- Rock Island, Illinois
- Fort Eustis, Virginia
- Camp Humphreys, South Korea
- Vilseck, Germany

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The Fort Hamilton Harbor Defense Museum Slated for Closure

The Harbor Defense Museum, sometimes called The Caponier, located within the grounds of Fort Hamilton in the Bay Ridge section of Brooklyn is a 19th-century fort, New York City's only military museum and one of only seventy military museums in the United States that is funded and operated by the Defense Department. It is slated for closure soon and the fate of its artifact collection has not been publicly disclosed.

Caponiers, the technical name of the structure that now houses the museum, are outworks; in the case of Fort Hamilton its mission was to protect the main fortress from rear attacks. Originally a small fort within the larger fort, it now serves as the guardian of Fort Hamilton's history. Robert E. Lee served at Fort Hamilton in the 1840s, when there was only one Army. Because it was used as a warehouse after it was no longer needed for military purposes, it was better preserved than other parts of the fort. While the museum and fort were in danger of closing in the mid-1990s due to budget cuts, it was preserved due to an agreement between the fort and the United States Army Center of Military History and preservation efforts of the Fort Hamilton Historic Society.[2] The museum continues to serve an educational role in explaining the history of the evolution of New York Harbor.

Fort Hamilton is the "second-oldest continuously garrisoned federal post in the nation", second only to West Point and its ties to the community are part of the charm of the museum and the fort. Although The Caponier was always prepared for battle, with a 24-pound cannon aimed at New York Harbor, the fort never experienced a battle. The museum houses an array of artifacts from New York's military history including American Revolutionary War relics, uniforms from various wars, old maps of the fort, the post's old switchboard, an exhibit on a secret tunnel that connected Fort Hamilton with another base a half-mile away, a Confederate mine and a piece of the net that protected New York Harbor from German U-boats in World War I. It is also the temporary home of a Bay Ridge time capsule that was unearthed prematurely due to construction.

<https://www.harbordefensemuseum.com/>
Monday through Friday: 10a.m.- 4p.m.
Closed: Weekends and Federal Holidays

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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 HDCC 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 HDCC, 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 <https://cdsg.org/shop/> to select the 2026 Annual Conference item and pay by credit card or PayPal your registration fee. Please see attached conference flyer to this newsletter to sign up for the 2026 Annual Conference.

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 Plaz**

a Hotel which is near the airport and the interstate at **3253 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 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.

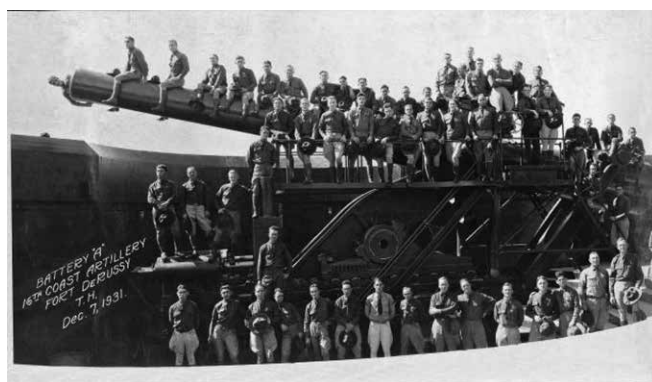
To assist in planning your travel to and from the conference, on-site registration will take place from 4pm to 6pm on Tuesday,

May 5, 2026, with conference orientation session and coast defense presentations to follow. The formal conference ends at 10pm on Saturday, May 9th with a special add-on day on May 10th 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.

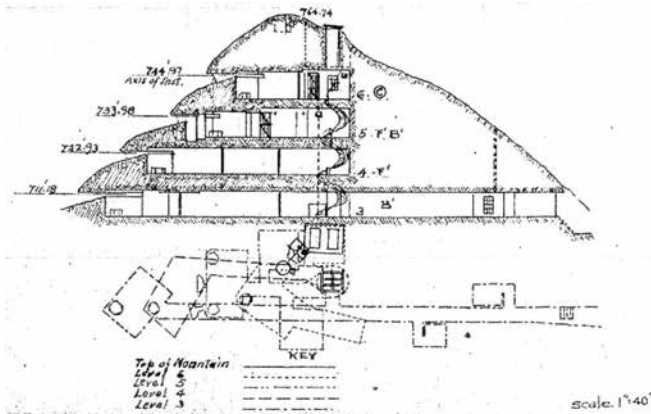
You can also use the registration flyer attached to the printed version of this CDSG Newsletter to sign up for this conference.



The CDSG's "first group photo" to Battery Randolph at Fort DeRussy, Oahu, Hawaii.



12-inch Long Range Battery Cullison, Fort Kamehameha, Oahu



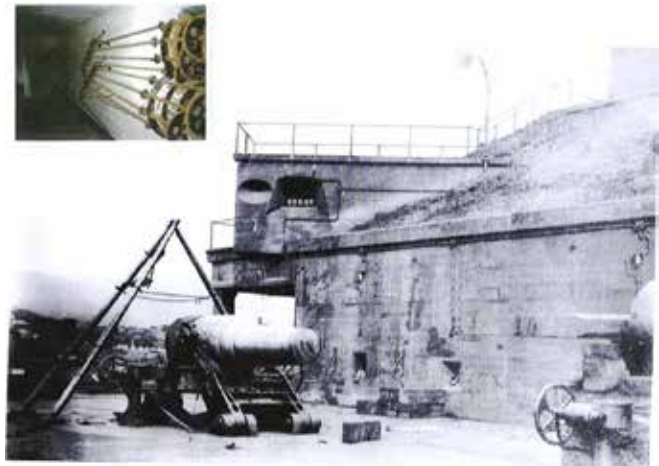
Plan for fire control stations at Leahi, Diamond Head, Fort Ruger, Oahu, Hawaii.



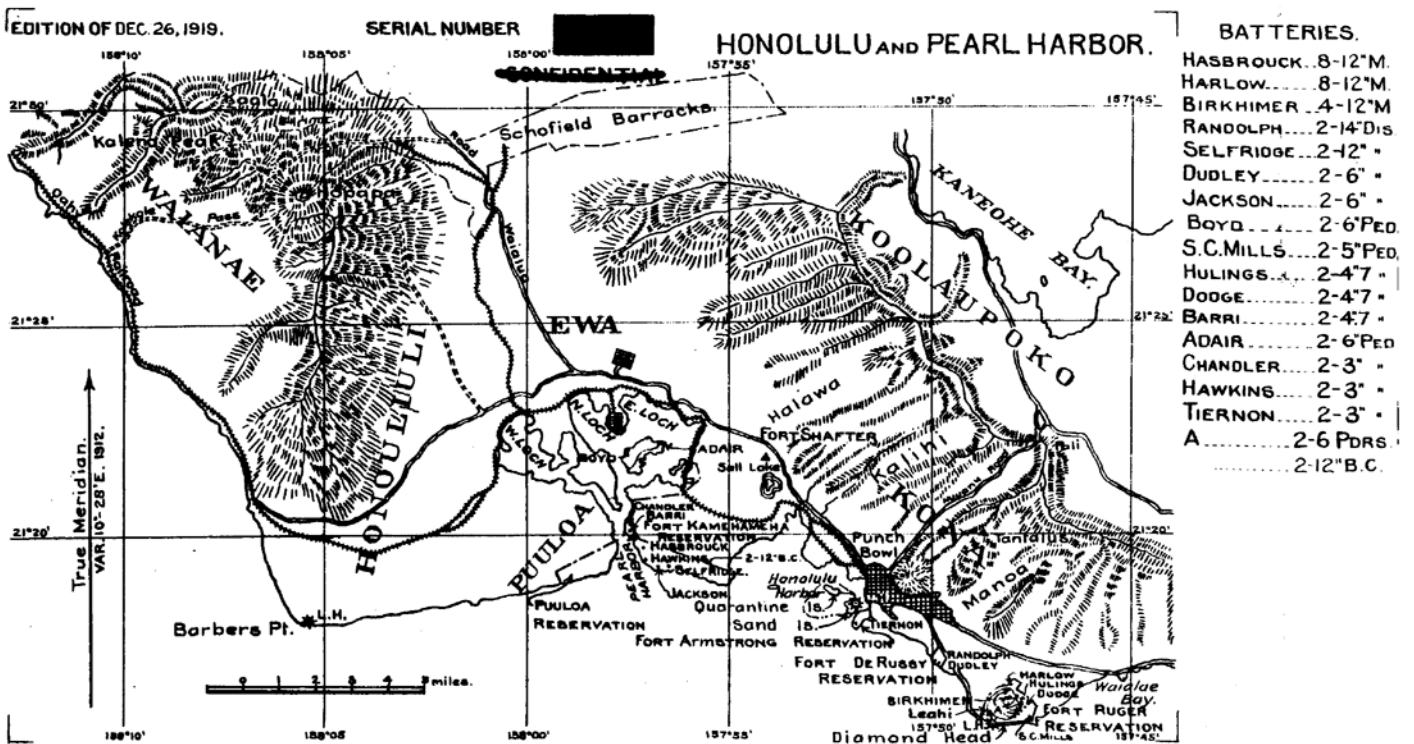
Drawing of Battery Arizona at Kahe Point, Oahu, Hawaii.



Fort Kamehameha, Oahu, Hawaii in 1932.



12-inch mortar at Battery Harlow, Fort Ruger, Oahu, Hawaii.





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.

The Fund is always seeking proposals for the monetary support of preservation and interpretation projects at former coast defense sites and museums. A one-page proposal briefly describing the site, the organization doing the work, and the proposed work or outcome should be sent to the address below. Successful proposals are usually distinct projects rather than general requests for donations. Ideally, we desire to fund several \$1,500 to \$5,000 grants per year. Upon conclusion of a project a short report suitable for publication in the CDSG *Newsletter* is requested. The trustees shall review such requests and pass their recommendation onto the CDSG Board of Directors for approval. The trustees for the CDSG Fund are Terry McGovern, Quentin Schillare and Mark Berhow. Receive an oozlefinch pin for donations over \$150!

Send donations to (and made out to):

CDSG Fund c/o Quentin Schillare

24624 W. 96th Street, Lenexa, KS 66227-7285 USA

Or use your credit card via PayPal on the www.cdsg.org website.

Send Fund Project requests to:

CDSG Fund c/o Terry McGovern

1700 Oak Lane, McLean, VA 22101-3326 USA

Please prepare a written request of your need and how your request relates to the goals of the CDSG.



CDSG Logo Hats, Shirts & Patches

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 joining the CDSG.

The CDSG patches have been available for several years. Designed especially for the CDSG, these quality patches combine the Coast Artillery Corps, the Ordnance Corps, and the Corps of Engineers symbols to reflect their involvement in U.S. coastal defenses. This logo is now on hats and a set of T-shirts which are great for showing the CDSG "flag."

To order your hat, T-shirt or patch, please complete the order form below and send it along with your check (made out to CDSG, Inc.) to Terry McGovern at 1700 Oak Lane, McLean, VA 22101-3326 USA (e-mail: tcmcgovern@att.net).

CDSG hats, T-shirts and patches ordering information

Black T-shirt with white ink:

Size & # L XL 2XL 3XL

Red T-Shirt with white ink:

Size & # L XL 2XL 3XL

Khaki T-Shirt with black ink:

Size & # L XL 2XL 3XL

Navy T-shirt with yellow ink:

Size & # L XL 2XL 3XL

Total Number: times \$ = Total \$

(domestic \$20 each)

CDSG Cloth Patch: times \$ = Total \$

(domestic \$4) each

CDSG Color Decal: times \$ = Total \$

(domestic \$2) each

Hats: times \$ = Total \$

(domestic \$20) each

Be sure to include your name and shipping address.

You can also order online at cdsg.org/shopping/

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Support the CDSG.org and FortWiki.com Websites

The CDSG supports its websites ONLY through donations. If you use these websites, please help the CDSG continue to maintain them by donating a shareware fee. We suggest a minimum donation of at least \$5.00. You can donate online at cdsg.org/ donations or by check or money order. Thank you for supporting the CDSG and FortWiki websites!



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Company of Military Historians

This organization is dedicated to the study and preservation of military history in the Americas. Its objectives are to promote and advance the research of military history and traditions through publications, exhibits, and meetings. Members include anyone interested in military history, such as historians, collectors, writers, artists, and those involved in living history.

The company publishes the quarterly journal, *Military Collectors and Historian*, and an ongoing series of color plates— "Military Uniforms in America." Memberships start at \$60

For membership information contact:

Company of Military Historians

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

Phone: 508-845-9229

E-mail: cmhhq@aol.com

<http://www.military-historians.org>.

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The Artilleryman Magazine

The *Artilleryman* is the only magazine exclusively for artillery shooters and collectors. It covers history, unit profiles, events, places to visit, and book reviews. It is published quarterly; subscriptions are \$34.95 a year. Free sample copies are available.

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The Fortress Study Group

www.fortressstudygroup.org

The Fortress Study Group is a charity registered in the UK with an international membership. Its purpose is advancing the study of post-medieval artillery fortifications throughout the World.

The benefits of Fortress Study Group membership include:

Our annual peer reviewed Journal FORT

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Two Webinars a month

An annual conference and tour in the UK

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UK Members Days and Study Tours

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The Coast Defense Study Group <https://cdsg.org>

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.

CDSG Publications
Mark Berhow, Publisher
PO Box 6124, Peoria, IL 61601
berhowma@cdsg.org

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.

Annual dues are \$50 domestic printed and foreign electronic, \$60 for Canada printed, and \$100 for international printed. Join/renew online at cdsg.org.

Checks payable to: The Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. (CDSG)
Send to:

Quentin Schillare, Membership Chairman
24624 W. 96th Street, Lenexa, KS 66227-7285
membership@cdsg.org

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The Coast Defense Study Group Press

This is an all-volunteer operation provided as a member service. Credit card orders are accepted at cdsg.org/shop. For mail orders send check or money order in U.S. currency. All prices include domestic shipping costs (US Postal Service). Allow at least 8-10 weeks for delivery.

CDSG Publications 1985-2024. PDF files of the entire set of *CDSG News/Journal/Newsletters* \$50 U.S. on a data USB drive by mail, or by download. Yearly updates can be obtained from info@cdsg.org.

CDSG eDocuments. \$50—available by download or by mail on a USB drive. Scanned historical documents related to seacoast defenses, most are copied from the National Archives. The electronic collection is available on a USB drive or as a download link. Included are annual reports of the chief of coast artillery and chief of engineers; various board proceedings and reports; army directories; text books; tables of organization and equipment; WWII command histories; drill, field, training manuals and regulations; ordnance department documents; ordnance tables and compilations; and ordnance gun and carriage cards.

CDSG Harbor Defense eDocuments. \$250—available by download or by mail on a USB drive. These documents form the basis of the conference and special tour handouts that have been held at harbor defense locations around the U.S. The collection includes reports of completed batteries/works; maps; annexes to defense projects; CD engineer notebooks; quartermaster building records; and aerial photos taken by the signal corps 1920-40, and other items. Specific items can be requested from berhowma@cdsg.org.

CSDG Press Books

Prices below include domestic shipping
(Contact the CDSG for international order prices)

<i>Notes on Seacoast Fortification Construction</i> , by Col. Eben E. Winslow (GPO, 1920), hard cover reprint, with 29 plates included in a separate paperback.	
Both items:	\$45
<i>Seacoast Artillery Weapons</i> (Army Technical Manual 4-210, 13 Oct. 1944) paper back reprint.	\$25
<i>The Service of Coast Artillery</i> , by F. Hines and F.W. Ward (1910), hardcover reprint	\$40
<i>Permanent Fortifications and Sea-Coast Defenses</i> , Congressional Report No. 62, U.S. House of Rep. (1862), hardcover reprint	\$30
<i>Handbook of American Coast Artillery Matériel</i> , Ordnance Doc. #2042, (1922), Hardcover reprint	\$45
<i>The Endicott and Taft Reports</i> , reprint of original reports of 1886, 1905, 1915, hardcover, with plates included in a separate paperback	\$45
<i>Artillerists and Engineers, the Beginnings of American Seacoast Fortifications, 1794-1815</i> , by Arthur P. Wade, paperback, (2010)	\$25
<i>American Seacoast Defenses: A Reference Guide</i> , Third Edition, rev. edited by Mark Berhow (2023), hardcover	\$45
<i>Historic Fortifications Preservation Handbook</i> , 2003 guide to preservation methods spiral bound softcover	\$15
<i>WWII Harbor Defenses of San Diego</i> , 2021 by H.R. Everett also available from Amazon	\$50
<i>American Seacoast Forts, a Directory</i> Vol 1, North Atlantic Coast	\$40
<i>American Seacoast Forts, a Directory</i> Vol 2, S. Atlantic & Gulf Coasts	\$40
<i>American Seacoast Forts, a Directory</i> Vol 3, Pacific Coast	\$40
<i>American Seacoast Forts, a Directory</i> Vol 4, Overseas Bases by McGovern, Berhow, Williford, Hardcover (Amazon list price \$49.95)	\$40

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