

The

CDSG Newsletter



The Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. — Spring 2026



Chairman's Message

Ned Libby

Members – As we start the New Year, I am happy to report that we have assembled a near-full crew of attendees for the May Hawaii Conference. Terry McGovern's diligence has located a bus transport provider familiar with the bases, and our conference is getting increased military support in the form of a joint base officer with whom we will pre-coordinate starting now and in person several days before the conference begins. We are only a couple of days away from having all of the participants' security forms in hand for the Navy sites, and will offer those to the Navy with ample processing time. We thank the many members who have offered support for this one-of-a-kind conference -- Next, noting that historical documentation of Coast Artillery accomplishments is a central focus of the CDSG, this issue announces that we have reached a milestone of 40 years of CDSG Publications -- Among many other new works, please note the availability in the publication section of the new four-volume work "American Seacoast Forts: A Directory with Period Military Maps 1890 - 1950", assembled by Terry McGovern, Mark Berhow, and Glen Williford. As the CDSG documents these works, we note also in this issue that several key coast artillery-focused museums around the country are facing closure due to funding and facility access changes. We ask everyone to read this section and consider how you might support keeping these museums open, particularly those in your local area. Finally, this issue notes the passing and honors the memory of Quentin Wayne Schillare, a stalwart long-time member of and contributor to the works of CDSG, and a professional Army officer – he will be profoundly missed !

* * * * *

2026 Nominations Committee – CDSG Board

Terry McGovern – Corporate Secretary

The CDSG Nominations Committee comprised of Norm Scarpulla, Steve Waldron, and Gordon Bliss, are seeking board candidates for the full Board to consider by April 15, 2026. The ballot will be included in the May 2026 Newsletter with results due by July 31. Results will be announced in August 2026 Newsletter. The three-year term will begin October 1, 2026 at which time Ned Libby will be stepping down from the board. If you are interested in running or have a nomination of another member, please contact Norm (nkscarpulla@icloud.com) or Gordon (gblisscdsg@msn.com) or Steve (swrams@hotmail.com) before April 15.

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

March-April
Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island
Chris Zeeman, c_zeeman@hotmail.com

2028 CDSG Special Tour

Spring
Bermuda
Terry McGovern, tcmcgovern@att.net

2028 CDSG Conference

San Francisco, California
Mark Berhow, berhowma@comcast.net

Other Meetings and Tours

April 15 -19
INTERFEST Annual Meeting
Dresden
Oliver Zauzig, praesident@interfest.de

April 21 - 24, 2026
Forte Cultura Annual Congress
Cadiz/Gibraltar
Fliippo Cailotto, mireille.stublings@um.edu.mt

April 19 - 25, 2026
Biehler Forts Annual Conference
Berlin/Kostrzyn/Estwall
Michail Lysenko, bieler.forts@gmail.com

May 30 - 31, 2026
Association Saint-Maurice d' Etudes Militaires Study Tour
Franche-Comte
Col. EMG Schalbetter, president@www.asmem.ch

June 2 - 5, 2026
Association Vauban Annual Congress
Belfort, France
Alain MONFERRAND, contact@association-vauban.org

August 22 - 31, 2026
 ECCOFORT Study Tour
 Silesia
 Hans-Rudolf Neumann hrv.neumann@t-online.de

September 17 - 22, 2026
 Association Saint-Maurice d' Etudes Militaires Study Tour
 Brittany France
 Col. EMG Schalbetter, president@www.asmem.ch

September 18 - 21, 2026
 Fortress Study Group Study Tour
 NW Ireland
 David Clarke, chair@fortressstudygroup.org

September 2026
 Deutsche Gesellschaft für Festungsforschung Annual Meeting
 Andreas Kupka, AKupka@Juelich.de

September 2026
 Association Vauban Study Tour
 Alain MONFERRAND contact@association-vauban.org

October 2026
 Fortress Study Group Annual Conference
 David Clarke, chair@fortressstudygroup.org

October 2026
 International Fortress Council Annual Meeting
 Jeroen van der Werf,
secretariat@internationalfortresscouncil.org

October 14 - 17, 2026
 Forte Cultura Symposium
 Malta
 Fiippo Cailotto, mireille.stubbings@um.edu.mt

* * * * *
**2026 Annual Business Meeting –
 Saturday, May 9, 2026**

Terry McGovern – Corporate Secretary

The CDSG Board of Directors is happy to announced that the CDSG Annual Business Meeting will be held at the Best Western The Plaza Hotel, 3253 N Nimitz Highway, Honolulu, HI 96819 at 7:00pm on Saturday, May 9, 2026. The Board urges all members to attend to hear annual reports from the board and committees and to discuss plans for the coming years, as well to ask questions about your organization.

* * * * *

Preservation Committee Report
 Gordon Bliss

Year in Review 2025

An update to the status of Plum Island/Fort Terry, New York. We have learned the pathogens have been moved off the island, forecasting the end of the Plum Island Animal Disease Center's mission. There may still be some work being done at the lab until later this year. The decommissioning process will then continue, likely for at least a couple of years. As for what happens after that, though there are bills in Congress to preserve the island, given the current political environment, I don't expect any progress to be made on that front. However, Suffolk County has expressed interest in acquiring the island and that may prove to be a more positive path. It is uncertain that we will know anything more definitive this year.

As far as I know, at Fisher's Island, New York (the former Fort H.G. Wright), the clean up of the two Endicott batteries closest to the ferry landing (Hoffman & Hamilton) has not progressed further since my last update. However, from what I've heard, work on them will resume in the spring and the intention is still to create a trail from the ferry landing out to Race Point and to provide some form of interpretive signage for the batteries.

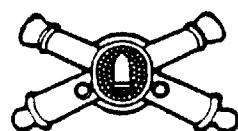
No significant news on the situation of Fort Wool in Hampton, VA. There is supposed to be an artificial island being built to act as a seabird nesting area which would enable the clean up of Fort Wool. However, nothing has happened yet and the steel battery commander's tower there is still in danger and there are issues with the island's dock.

Also on the negative side, I just recently received information that the fire control tower and attached barracks at Coolidge Point Manchester MA, formerly owned by member Craig Lentz, has been demolished. Apparently the new owner desired to build a new house on that spot.

In the 2024 Year in Review column I listed a number of other sites that had issues endangering them and except for one, which we visited during the Boston conference this past year, I haven't heard any more details or status updates. These are: the HECP at Fort Stark, Fort Preble shoreline erosion and scarp collapse, Fort Gaines beach erosion issues, Fort DuPont destruction of buildings, Fort Clinch beach erosion issues, Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip abandonment and structural issues, Fort Pike/Fort Macomb abandonment and structural issues, Fort Armistead impact of bridge collapse, Fort Howard and Fort Carroll abandonment, Fort Hancock demolish by neglect, Fort Totten demolish by neglect, Fort Michie WW2 fire control tower and abandonment and erosion issues at Castle Pinckney. Once again, if anyone has more information on any of these, please let me know.

If there are any items of significance from the past year that I have failed to mention, please let me know and I will cover them in the next 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.



* * * * *

Coast Defense Study Group Press 2025 Annual Report

Terrance McGovern, Chairman

2025 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 39" (2025) of the Coast Defense Journal and CDSG Newsletter to our list of back issues. This volume is only available via a USB drive or by download which contains our entire Journal/News collection, which represents over 17,500 pages of coast defense articles for only \$50. **We have reached a milestone of 40 years of CDSG Publications!** Once you purchase this USB/download, CDSG Publications 1985-2025, you can receive free yearly updates via request to info@cdsg.org. Our coast defense document collections, known collectively as "Harbor Defense Document" (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 at cdsg.org). The complete collection of these digital files is available for \$250. These USB/download files 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 a USB drive or download. A companion digital product is our "CDSG Documents" DVD/Dropbox with a great collection of key coast artillery reports and manuals as well as the CDSG organizational documents for only \$50.

CDSG Gear

While actually part of our Membership & Promotion Committee activities, the CDSG Press handles the distribution of our CDSG Gear, such as T-Shirts (\$18), Patches (\$4), Lapel Pins (\$5), and Hats (\$20). Please purchase these items so you promote the CDSG to others and help grow our membership.

CDSG Press

Traditional printing of 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 402 copies (99%) of our 1994 reprint book, "Notes on Seacoast Fortification Construction", out of our total press run of 404. 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 created a POD version (softback) which is available today for sale. Our 1997 reprint, "Service of Coast Artillery" has sold 462 units (87%) out of 532 printed, leaving 70 copies on hand. Our 1998 reprint book, "Permanent Fortification and Seacoast Defenses" which covers the Third System of U.S. fortifications has sold 302 units (88%) out of a press run of 344, leaving 42 copies on hand. Our 2001 reprint project, "American Coast Artillery Material" has sold 365 units (90%) to date out of 404 books printed, leaving 39 copies on hand. Our 2007 project, "Endicott-Taft Report" has sold 314 books/plates (74%) to date out of a press run of 427, leaving 153 copies on hand. Please note: In 2025 we offered the four reprint titles with large stocks on hand to our members for "free" (just the cost of shipping) in an effort to reduce our storage costs. Also, we had to disposed of around 120 books that were found to be damaged. As you can see from the numbers above this member promotion was successful as we reduced the number of books on hand by almost 100 books per title.

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 are now selling ASD - 3rd Edition as a hardcover book as noted below.

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. Mark has updated and expanded the range of seacoast defense information for the 3rd Edition (it is also available in PDF digital form for \$45 via download). Please place your order for the ASD3 (\$45) so you will have the most comprehensive guide on your favorite subject.

We plan to continue to offer our books through the "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 this title in making that decision.

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

The CDSG Press completed a companion to the “American Seacoast Defenses: A Reference Guide” (ASD3). This publication is titled **“American Seacoast Forts: A Directory with Period Military Maps 1890 - 1950”**. This work (ASF) focuses 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 books also include an introduction, battery histories, and many period military maps. Terry McGovern, Mark Berhow, and Glen Williford assembled this work which is over 1,200 pages long so it is issued in four geographic volumes, both as POD hard cover books and a digital edition available as a download. The books are **Volume One – The North Atlantic Coast – Portland to New York, Volume Two – The Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic and Gulf Coasts – Delaware Bay to Galveston, Volume Three – The Pacific Coast – San Diego to Puget Sound, and Volume Four – Alaska and the Overseas Bases – including Hawaii, the Philippines, the Panama Canal Zone, the Caribbean, Newfoundland, and Bermuda**. While available through Amazon at \$49.95, members can purchase for \$40 each including shipping through cdsg.org/shop.

The CDSG Press also offers the “Historic Fortification Preservation Handbook” for \$15 which was published by Pacific Northwest Preservation Partnership on how to take care of your concrete emplacements from the Endicott-Taft Program and World War Two Period.

Hole-in-the-Head Press

Sam Stokes, a former chairman of the CDSG, donated the inventory of his publishing company, Hole-in-the-Head Press to the CDSG several years ago. Titles included are “The Last Missile Site” (\$15), “Rings of Supersonic Steel” (\$25), “To Defend and Deter” (\$25), “Artillery at the Golden Gate” (\$15), and “Fort Baker Through the Ages” (\$15). These titles focus on American’s missile age and the coast defenses of San Francisco. These high-quality books are available on the CDSG website at cdsg.org/shop.

2026 Plans

We are planning on reprinting as a single volume Dale Manuel’s six pamphlets on southern American forts. We have John Weaver working on editing these titles and will be adding new illustrations. Several proposals have been offered for future new CDSG Press projects. Everett Bennett has provided a collection of Coast Artillery Training Films. We are working on a way to provide 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 40” (2026) of the Coast Defense Journal and CDSG Newsletter to our DVD or Dropbox of back issues for a price of \$50. While the **CDSG Press** does not print new works on coast defenses that require a payment of royalties at this time, a sister press, the **Redoubt Press** will publish such works. An example, is the recently published, “Pacific Fortress – A History of the Seacoast Defenses of Hawaii” 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.

* * * * *

Publications Committee Report for 2025

Mark Berhow, Chair

There is not much new to report here, except for the usual plea for more articles! For articles this past year, I would like to thank Charlie Bogart, Glen Williford, and Terry McGovern for their submissions. However we lost a regular author with the passing of Quentin Schillare. I have over 400 pages of material ready to be published, with a few articles in preparation and some filler material left to me by Bolling Smith. This includes articles written by Bill Gaines and Quentin Schillare before their passing. It may sound like a lot but that will only yield just over five 80-page issues. We really do need more new material. Without it we will have to consider decreasing the number of pages per issue, or reprinting articles from other publications or from past CDSG issues.

I would also note that I am not getting any younger, so the group needs to consider how to replace me as some point. It would be good to find a volunteer to be a back-up publications guru for the future. I currently use Adobe and Topaz software to process the images and do the layouts for the publications and books for printing.

* * * * *

Projects and Website Committee Report for 2025

Mark Berhow, Chair

The CDSG and the Fort Wiki websites seem to be humming along, with no major problems last year. I try to keep the CDSG site more or less up to date with event, publication, and notice updates, and I putter with occasionally adding more content. The Fort Wiki site remains largely unchanged since we took over the site—there is a lot of content updating that should be done. The underpinning software code has been updated, but the architecture for each page is generally out of date and really should be updated before any significant content editing occurs. This requires active editors, of which we currently have very few volunteers. Any one interested in helping with updating Fort Wiki can contact me. I should also note that the care and feeding of websites including hosting fees, domain fees, yearly software subscriptions, and our contract with our website maintenance gurus is not cheap. We currently cover the budget for this from our press and interest earnings as this is not covered by membership dues.

* * * * *

2025 Outreach and Representative Report February 2026

Norm Scarpulla

The Outreach and Representative Program is a key element of the CDSG’s efforts to encourage the preservation of coast defense sites, their accurate interpretation, and assistance to their owners and managers. For each harbor, fort, or related site, we invite a CDSG member to become the site representative. We ask each site representative to:

-Visit the site or contact the owner or manager periodically.
-Ensure that the site owner or manager knows that the site representative is the conduit for information about the site to and from the CDSG, and that CDSG will support preservation and interpretation of the site, both with advice and possible funding from the CDSG Fund.

The complete list of site representatives is on the CDSG website. Some site representatives cover just one fort or location, while some cover an entire harbor or section of coast.

Be alert for opportunities to do presentations to interested groups, either virtually or in person. Mark Berhow has prepared a presentation covering the history of US seacoast fortifications, which can be used as-is if that is appropriate to the audience. Also, I can assist you to prepare a presentation designed for your audience.

We have posters and membership brochures that can be used to promote the CDSG. If you have an opportunity to promote CDSG with a poster, please do so. This might be on a bulletin board at a fort or museum, or as a handout at an event of a military history organization. The posters and brochures are available to download from the CDSG website; then just print copies as you need them.

If you can be a site representative or have any questions, please contact me.

* * * * *

John D. P. Bennett

CDSG Member John Bennett passed away on December 12, 2025. Anyone who has been a regular reader of the CDSG publications know that John was a passionate researcher of Hawaiian and Pacific theater military history. He was the author of many articles on the Hawaiian coast artillery defenses and provided our readers with in-depth historical information as well as a description of the current condition of many of the military reservations on Oahu and other islands of the Hawaiian archipelago. His son John donated all his research and the many rare books that he collected over his lifetime to Mr. Peter Young, a historian of Hawaiian culture, who assured John that any materials that he could not use, he would gift to others who have similar interests. He was interred at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery, Kaneohe, HI.

* * * * *

Quentin Schillare 1945-2026

Quentin, or "Quent" as most of us knew him, was a long-time active member of the CDSG (Member Number 449). He was a frequent attender of our annual meetings and special tours. He served as a member and chair of the CDSG Board of Directors and for the past 10 years as our membership chairman. A dedicated researcher, he also has contributed a number of articles to the Coast Defense Journal. I first met him on our 2006 trip to the Philippine defenses and spent many an enjoyable hour with him on subsequent conferences. He was the stalwart and somewhat harried organizer of our last meeting in New Orleans, originally scheduled for 2020 but delayed by the COVID outbreak until 2022. Despite the many issues with arranging permission to visit

sites and the several boat arrangements, the meeting had perfect weather (between storms) and went off without a hitch. He will be missed! (Comments by Mark Berhow)



* * *

Lieutenant Colonel Quentin W. Schillare (U.S. Army, Retired) died in Olathe, Kan., surrounded by his family, on Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026, after a short illness.

He was born in Waterbury, Conn., on May 18, 1945, and raised in Watertown, Connecticut. He was educated in Watertown, graduating from Watertown High School in 1963. He received several degrees from the University of Connecticut at Storrs: Bachelor of Science in Forestry in 1967, Bachelor of Arts in History in 1974, and a Master of Business Administration in 1977. He played basketball and lacrosse for UConn during his undergraduate years. Colonel Schillare also received two Master of Military Arts and Sciences degrees from the United States Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Colonel Schillare was a professional military officer, enlisting in the Army in 1967, graduating from Infantry Officer Candidate School in 1968, the Army Command and General Staff College in 1989, the School of Advanced Military Studies in 1990, and from the U.S. Army War College Defense Strategy Course in 1992. Following command and staff assignments in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the continental United States, he retired from active duty in 1997. During his service Colonel Schillare was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, the Parachutist's Badge, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star for Valor with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and seventeen other awards and decorations.

After his military retirement, Colonel Schillare worked for several defense contractors at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, as a military analyst until retirement in September 2014. He was a member of the Association of the United States Army, the Fort Leavenworth Historical Society, and the Coast Defense Study Group. Through these groups and his prior service, he authored several publications.

He was buried with military honors at Leavenworth National Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation or the Olathe Hospice House.

* * * * *

Installation of 155mm Gun at Fort Miles

Terry McGovern and Will Short
 Fort Miles Historical Association
info@fortmilesmuseum.org

Fort Miles Historical Association Completes Restoration and Installation of Historic 155mm GPF Coast Artillery for the Fort Miles Museum

Cape Henlopen State Park (CHSP), Delaware — November 24, 2025 — The Fort Miles Historical Association (FMHA) is proud to announce the return of historic 155mm GPF coast artillery to Cape Henlopen after an absence of 81 years. A battery of four guns were the first coast defenses to be placed at the cape in 1941 at the start of World War II. After many years of searching, the FMHA and CHSP have placed a similar 155mm GPF gun on public display in the Fort Miles Museum's artillery park at the CHSP.

This World War I-era artillery piece holds significant relevance to Fort Miles' wartime legacy. During World War II, a battery of four 155mm Grande Puissance Filloux (GPF) coast artillery were the first guns to be located at Cape Henlopen (later named Fort Miles), serving as part of the Army's coastal defense strategy.



Four-gun battery of 155mm GPF during drill at Fort Miles in December 1941. (NARA)



The Mahan Collection Foundation and Coastal Towing teams (T. McGovern)



Readyng the 155mm GPF for lifting (T. McGovern)



Placing the 155mm GPF on the Artillery Park pad (T. McGovern)

They were moved from Fort Dupont, Delaware City to Cape Henlopen via the Pennsylvania Railroad in April 1941. The first practice firing was on May 10, 1941. In January 1942, the four 155's were placed on concrete and steel Panama mounts near what is now the CHSP beach house and designated Battery 22. These guns were withdrawn from the harbor defenses in May 1944 when permanent coast artillery assumed their role. With the installation of the newly restored 155mm GPF, the FMHA completes its full collection of historic coast artillery, marking a milestone in the ongoing effort to preserve and interpret Delaware's coastal and military history.

Through the efforts of FMHA's Terry McGovern, the rare 155mm GPF was located and acquired through an exchange with American Legion Post 566 in Akron, Ohio, wherein the CHSP provided a Vietnam-era 155mm M114 howitzer in return for the historically accurate GPF gun. In March of this year, the 155mm GPF was transported from Ohio to New Jersey by The Mahan Collection Foundation (Mahan), based in Basking Ridge, NJ. Mahan conducted a full professional restoration over a period of approximately eight months, returning the gun to historically accurate condition.



The final product - 155mm GPF at the Fort Miles Museum
(T. McGovern)

After Mahan transported the restored gun to CHSP on November 13, Coastal Towing of Lewes lifted the gun from its trailer and placed it on the display pad in the museum's artillery park.

"With this gun now in place, Fort Miles Museum can fully illustrate the origins of the fort's WWII defensive capabilities," said a spokesperson for the Fort Miles Historical Association. "Completing the artillery park with this final GPF piece allows us to offer visitors a comprehensive and authentic interpretation of the fort's role in protecting the East Coast during the war."

Although there is no ceremony currently planned for the placement, the restored 155mm GPF is now available for public viewing every day near the entrance to the Fort Miles Historic Area artillery park outside the Fort Miles Museum. Throughout the winter, the Fort Miles Museum, inside Battery 519, is open to the public every Friday and Saturday from 10AM to 4PM. Admission is free, and donations to the Fort Miles Historical Association are encouraged to support future preservation efforts.

About the Fort Miles Historical Association: the Fort Miles Historical Association is dedicated to the preservation, interpretation, and promotion of Fort Miles and its role in U.S. coastal defense history. Through restoration projects, educational programming, and community engagement, FMHA works to honor local military heritage and provide impactful historical experiences for the public.

* * * * *

Coast Defense Study Group
2026 Annual Conference to the Coast
Defenses of the Oahu - Hawaii

May 5 to May 10, 2026

Third Announcement – Three Months Out

The 2026 Annual CDSG conference will be held at the former coastal defenses of Oahu, Hawaii (dates: May 5-10, 2026). The CDSG has never held an annual conference (just tours) in Hawaii due to the challenges in gaining site permission for a large group and the travel costs for our members. Based on a 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 coast defense sites are closed to the public and locked-up behind welded or locked doors. Also, we are limiting attendance to 65 members on a first paid basis, so please send your registration form and fee as soon as possible (**we already have 57 paid attendees**). 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 began shortly after the territory's occupation in 1907 lasting 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 Corps, 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), Hawaiian National Guard (former Fort Ruger/Diamond Head) Battery Hatch, Battery Arizona, Battery #303, Battery #304, Battery #405, and several other locations. We are only waiting upon the US Marine Corps to respond to our request to visit three sites onboard MCBH. 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 for a mandatory orientation at 7pm.

Day One (May 6) will focus on the coast defenses on Western side of Oahu. This would include Fort Barrette (Battery Hatch), Battery Arizona (14-inch turret) and Pu'u O Hulu (Battery #303/ Battery Hulu).

Day Two (May 7) will visit 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 HDCP in the Mule Tunnel).



Recent photo of Mule Tunnel, Fort Ruger, Oahu, Hawaii.

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 HDCP, 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), and Battery Kirkpatrick (8-inch turret). We will try to visit the Army-Navy Joint Command Center and Station C complex at the Aliamanu Crater but no permission has been forthcoming. Members will be asked to carpool using their own rental vehicles (4-wheel drive) on this day as these sites are hard to visit using a bus. Access to these sites many not occur due to difficult access and uncertain site owner permission. Depending on time available we will try to visit the Lehi Fire Control Complex at Diamond Head, but this site requires tickets in advance and will be a hard climb for some members.



Recent photo of 14-inch turret site at Battery Arizona, Kahe Point, Oahu, Hawaii

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.



Recent photo of the Plotting Room at Battery Arizona, Kahe Point, Oahu, Hawaii.

The estimated costs per person (based on 60 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 a coach 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 and share 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 please know that we have added providing four days of lunches due to logistical requirements so this will increase the registration cost by \$80 (to be collected upon checking into the hotel), but this change will reduce your own spending by one

meal per day. 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 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 ASAP**. 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) it 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, based on usage of 40 sleep rooms per night. If we do not reach this minimum the daily room rate can be higher. 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. We have sent out an attendee contact list so you can see about sharing rooms.

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 mandatory conference orientation session at 7pm 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.

Please see the registration flyer attached to this CDSG newsletter to sign up for this conference.

* * * * *

U.S. Coast Artillery Museums at Risk

Terry McGovern

Only a few military museums in the United States focus on the history and technology of Coast Artillery and Coastal Defense, so our membership value each of them. It is concerning to learn that several are at risk of closing with both their site and collections no longer available to our membership and public. The CDSG Board is aware of these possible actions and has offered to provide our organization support in remaining open and retaining these collections. Unfortunately, the CDSG support is mainly moral and limited to advocacy to political leaders, while we hope our CDSG members can provide more direct support by volunteering at these museums and providing financial resources. Below is current status as best we can understand it at these locations:

Fort MacArthur Military Museum – San Pedro, California

The Fort MacArthur Military Museum is located on the grounds of the former Battery Osgood-Farley, Fort MacArthur, Angels Gate City Park, San Pedro, California. The museum is a City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (LA Parks) property within the Angels Gate City Park. The Fort MacArthur Military Museum is in an emplacement that was formerly used for two 14-inch disappearing guns. The museum features a number of unique restored features including the power room, a plotting room, and a battery commanders' station. The museum features a fine collection of vintage military vehicles and other military artifacts. The Fort MacArthur Military Museum is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the history of Fort MacArthur, a U.S. Army Coast Artillery post which guarded the Los Angeles harbor from 1914 to 1974. The Museum was established in 1985. The museum had a full-time director and several part time guides. The museum also relied upon volunteers from the Fort MacArthur Museum Association (FMMA) to provide support for acquiring and caring for the museum's collection and manning museum events. The museum was open to the public on a regular weekly schedule.

For many years the Fort MacArthur Military Museum was considered the "gold" standard for coast artillery museums, but several years ago this changed when museum's director, Stephen Nelson, left as museum director and several part-time employees and FMMA volunteers continued the museum's operation under the direction of LA Parks. As direct museum operations became the responsibility of park's overall Recreation and Parks Director, LA Parks became aware of concerns relating to the museum's artifacts, both recordkeeping and upkeep of those artifacts. Additionally, LA Parks observed that the physical structure of the museum was suffering from water infiltration and resulting growth of mold requiring restoration to make the emplacement safe for public touring. It is understood the LA Parks is moving forward with both ADA/safety and remediation efforts.

Relations between LA Parks and FMMA deteriorated during this time as management issues developed over museum operations and collection ownership to the point where LA Parks locked up the museum in June 2023 and the FMMA was no longer allowed unsupervised access to the museum. These actions led to a dispute over the ownership of the museum's large collection of artifacts, so while the museum grounds were open for the public to visit through guided tours, all structures have been locked up since June 2023.

This legal dispute between LA Parks and the FMMA is in the process of being resolved with FMMA retaining most of the collection. The FMMA is no longer permitted unsupervised access or storage at the museum so this large collection of coast artillery and other military artifacts will now need to find a new home. Several items in the collection have already moved to the American Military History Museum, also known as Tankland, in South El Monte, CA and to the Fort Mott State Park, in Pennsville, NJ. The CDSG has been trying to work with the FMMA to move both a 90mm Fixed Mount and a 25kw Motor Generator that the CDSG arranged for the transfer from the National Park Service and then funded the transport to the Fort MacArthur Military Museum over 20 years ago. The 90mm Fixed Mount needs to be restored as the FMMA took the mount apart but it was never restored as promised. The CDSG has identified a museum that is willing to restore this rare coast artillery to its original condition. The non-operating 25kw Motor Generator would be returned to the NPS at Sandy Hook, NJ where it was originally used to power seacoast searchlights. Unfortunately, the FMMA has not been responsive to our offer to recover, restore and place these coast artillery artifacts on public display as planned these many years ago. Please contact Terry McGovern at tcmcgovern@att.net if you would like to get involved in this CDSG Fund project.

While the CDSG is hoping that the FMMA will be willing to transfer many of the coast artillery display items to LA Parks so they can remain at the museum, this outcome is uncertain. For example, the museum has a one-of-kind operating battery power room and the disassembly of this unique power plant would be a major loss. LA Parks has plans to continue the Fort MacArthur Military Museum and has asked for the CDSG's help in finding



Disassembled 90mm Fixed Mount at Fort MacArthur Museum on display for more than 20 years.

volunteers for the museum. They would like to see a Friends of Fort MacArthur Military Museum be formed to support the museum. They are planning to hire a new director for the museum. Unfortunately, over the last 20 years the pool of volunteers to the museum has dwindled and the museum needs a reboot if it can return to the "gold" standard. The CDSG hopes that its members in Southern California will consider volunteer at the Fort MacArthur Military Museum. Please contact Terry McGovern or Mark Berhow at tcmcgovern@att.net or berhowma@comcast.net if you would like to get involved with the Fort MacArthur Military Museum.



The Fort MacArthur Museum on the grounds of Battery Farley-Osgood, San Pedro, CA



The Fort MacArthur Museum on the grounds of Battery Farley-Osgood, San Pedro, CA

US Army Harbor Defense Museum – Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, New York

The Harbor Defense Museum, sometimes called The Caponier, is housed in a section of the Third System Fort Hamilton in the Bay Ridge section of Brooklyn, New York. It is New York City's only military museum and part of the US Army Center of Military History's Museum Enterprise system. The Harbor Defense Museum contains artifacts and exhibits that explain the history of the Fort Hamilton and its role in the defense of New York harbor. The museum is located in the caponier of the old fort on the grounds of the United States Army Garrison at Fort Hamilton, adjacent to the base of the Verrazano Bridge. Built between 1825-1831, the fort and the caponier have been added to the National Register of Historic Places. The fort underwent

several structural modifications in the 20th century as advances in weaponry required the upgrading of its defenses and urban progress crowded its position. Fortunately, the land side of the fort still retains much of its original character and the caponier (a miniature fort guarding the main fort's gate) is intact. The permanent collections include: United States Army uniforms, accoutrements and equipment, edged weapons, small arms, cannon and munitions from 1800 to present; models, dioramas and miniatures of New York soldiers through history; artifacts relating to Fort Hamilton, the defense of New York City (including the Battle of Brooklyn during the Revolutionary War) and the Coast Artillery, and military themed fine art. The museum office has an extensive research library on local and military history, which is open by appointment. There is no admission charge and the museum is open weekdays, but it is recommended that you call to confirm your visit. You also need to get a visitor pass the fort's main gate to enter the Army post.



The US Army's CMH Harbor Defense Museum at Fort Hamilton, New York.



Display inside the Harbor Defense Museum at Fort Hamilton, New York.

In June 2025, the Center of Military History (CMH) has begun the consolidation and reduction of Army museums, a process that will continue through Fiscal Year 2029 in support of Army transformation and a focus on directing military resources toward readiness and lethality. The Army Museum Enterprise (AME) will reduce from 41 museum activities at 29 locations to 12 field museums and four training support facilities at 12 locations. The closure list includes the Harbor Defense Museum at Fort Hamilton. The CMH rationale is that the current AME has a substantial maintenance backlog and insufficient staffing

prevent their museums from reaching their fullest potential as educational and historical resources. These challenges also pose significant risk to their ability to care for the Army's priceless artifact collection, which is one of the world's largest. Specific closure dates and procedures have not been determined, but will occur over the next three years. CMH says it is committed to maintaining communications with affected local communities and commands, and to addressing stakeholder concerns.

The timing of closure of the Harbor Defense Museum has not been disclosed and the museum is currently functioning. CDSG is concerned about the future of the museum's artifacts as based on past CMH museum closures (such as the Ordnance Museum at the APG) that many of these artifacts disappeared into the CMH warehouses at Anniston, Al and Fort Belvoir, Va never to be seen again by the public. The Bay Shore community and its elected officials are protesting this closure so the CDSG is asking our members to advocate to CMH that Harbor Defense Museum not be closed. If the museum does get closed then ask that the CMH disclose where its artifacts will be retained. CDSG members can write to Charles Bowery, Executive Director at U.S. Army Center of Military History 103 Third Street, Fort McNair, Washington, DC 20319-5058 or at info@thecenterformilitaryhistory.com to express your concerns about closing the Harbor Defense Museum. Members can also reach out to their congressional representatives to ask them to advocate that the Harbor Defense Museum remain open.

The Puget Sound Coast Artillery Museum – Fort Worden State Park, Port Townsend, WA

The Puget Sound Coast Artillery Museum is located in Fort Worden State Park in Port Townsend Washington. Fort Worden is one of three forts comprising the Triangle of Fire which controlled ship access to Puget Sound. Construction at Fort Worden started in 1898 with the first guns manned in 1902 and the majority of the structures on the Fort predate WWI. The Puget Sound Coast Artillery Museum was established in June 1985 to preserve and interpret Coast Artillery history with special emphasis on the Harbor Defenses of Puget Sound as they existed and functioned from the late 1800s to the end of World War II. The Museum also has exhibits showing the history of Fort Worden from its beginnings in 1897 through its use as a military base, a State Diagnostic and Treatment Center for adolescents, and finally as one of the premier State Parks in Washington.



The Puget Sound Coast Artillery Museum building at Fort Worden State Park, Port Townsend, WA



Displays inside the Puget Sound Coast Artillery Museum at Fort Worden State Park.

The museum features a number of exhibits on coast artillery history and artifacts. The park retains a nearly complete set of garrison buildings that are now being used for a variety of functions. The museum provides a self-guided tour handout will take you to historic structures around the park including gun batteries, fire control stations, and searchlight facilities. The park is open daily, parking pass required. The museum is located in one of the original 1904 barracks and is open 11 a.m.–4 p.m. on Wednesday to Sunday with a donation requested. <http://coastartillery.org/>, <https://parks.state.wa.us/511/Fort-Worden>, <http://fortworden.org/>

While former Fort Worden is owned by Washington State Parks, the management of the garrison area was turned over a decade ago to a public development authority (PDA) sponsored by Port Townsend. This PDA was to manage the 90 or so aging buildings that include handsome quarters, auditoriums, the guardhouse, and barracks that once housed hundreds of soldiers. The Fort Worden PDA raised millions from private and public sources, borrowed millions more, hired scores of people and set out to transform the park into a regional venue for “life-long learning.” Unfortunately, this approach didn’t work. PDA accounting was a mess even before its financial officer was charged and convicted of misappropriating funds. Last year, the PDA declared itself bankrupt, its finances taken over by a court-appointed receiver, leaving unpaid debts to vendors, tenants, and a local bank which had lent the agency \$6 million.

Washington State Parks and Recreation (WSPR) has resumed the management of the former garrison area last year. WSPR faces its own financial challenges as its state budget has been slashed, and it needs to look to user fees to fund 71% of its annual budget. This has led to WSPR to look to tenants at Fort Worden State Park to pay “market based” rents. Included in this new lease policy will be the Puget Sound Coast Artillery Museum. In talking with CDSG member, Greg Hagee, President of The Puget Sound Coast Artillery Museum, the amount of rent that WSPR wants for their museum building (former company-sized barracks) is greater than what the museum can afford. The museum board plans to meet to consider what alternatives maybe available, but according to Greg the most likely outcome will be the closure of the museum by Labor Day and the liquidation of the museum’s collection through the end of the year. The CDSG Board has expressed its concern about this outcome and has offered to advocacy to the

WSPR leadership of the value of museum to Fort Worden State Park and the importance of its collection in telling the history of Fort Worden and Coast Artillery Corp. The CDSG urges our membership, and especially our Washington State members to reach out to Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and its agency leadership to reconsider the financial burden the WSPR is placing the museum. The WSPR can be contacted at 300 Desmond Dr S.E. Lacey, WA 98503 or InfoCen@parks.wa.gov. The director of the WSPR is Diana Dupuis.

* * * * *

Editorial From the Past: A New Name for An Old Journal

By Major F. S. Clark, C.A.C. Manager and Editor
Coast Artillery Journal

Volume 57, Number 1, July 1922

With this issue, THE JOURNAL OF THE UNITED STATES ARTILLERY lays aside its time-honored name to assume one more truly descriptive and befitting-THE COAST ARTILLERY JOURNAL. After due consideration of the opinions expressed by many Coast Artillery Officers, the Chief of Coast Artillery has directed this change, believing that the more specific title is in keeping with the respect which we owe to the significant traditions of our own arm of the service.

It is to be remembered that when our JOURNAL was established in 1892, the entire artillery of the United States consisted of five regiments, with only 288 officers. Each of these regiments had twelve batteries, of which ten were coast batteries, and two were field batteries. So that at the time the JOURNAL was founded, five-sixths of all our artillery was Coast Artillery. The need for a JOURNAL was felt because the artillery was awakening from its long sleep since Civil War days, and the development of a modern technique and doctrine in both Coast Artillery and Field Artillery had just begun. In the early days of the JOURNAL, as the most cursory survey of its volumes will reveal, the challenge for progress, and the doors to be opened in the direction of investigation and invention, seemed to lay more immediately in the Coast Artillery path, so that from the first the JOURNAL OF THE UNITED STATES ARTILLERY was truly a Coast Artillery Journal. While the JOURNAL was catholic and impartial in its attention to every sort of artillery interest from 1892 to 1907, the date of the legal separation of the Coast Artillery and Field Artillery, yet during this period the progressive strides in Coast Artillery methods were so tremendous and so distinctive a process in the United States as compared with all other countries, that always the major emphasis of the JOURNAL rested on Coast Artillery problems.

Since the separation in 1907, the JOURNAL, as the third oldest of American service periodicals extant, deferred to what was conceived a time-honored tradition, in maintaining the name which is now laid aside.

Nevertheless, as all know, ever since 1907 the JOURNAL has striven to fulfil its mission as “The Spokesman of the Coast Artillery Corps.” So, as the JOURNAL voyages forth again with the present volume, it embarks but the more truly under the colors and shield which it has always served. As we close one chapter and open another, it is not out of place to look backward and

quickly scan the JOURNAL'S history.

With the close of the present year, the JOURNAL will have completed thirty years of service. In 1912, after twenty years, the JOURNAL began publishing a series of articles reviewing not only the history of the JOURNAL itself, but as well the progress during the JOURNAL'S life of the art of Coast Defense, including the improvements in gunnery, in ordnance, in mining, in tactics, and in organization. Today, after the lapse of ten years and with the supervention of the World War and its outlook, the Coast Artillery officer will find the reading of this series of articles even more interesting than when first they appeared. Even a recapitulation of the history of the JOURNAL and the contemporaneous progress of the Corps is out of the question here, but a few significant facts should be set forth.

Prior to 1892 the need for an artillery publication had been discussed, but it remained for a devoted little group of enthusiasts, consisting of: 1st Lieutenant William B. Homer, 5th Artillery, 1st Lieutenant Henry C. Davis, 3rd Artillery, 1st Lieutenant John W. Ruckman, 1st Artillery, 1st Lieutenant Cornelius DeW. Willcox, 2nd Artillery, 2nd Lieutenant Lucien G. Berry, 4th Artillery, to enlist by correspondence from artillery officers promise for sufficient financial support, to assemble the material for a first issue, and to present to the then Commandant of the Artillery School, Colonel Royal T. Frank, a concrete proposition for producing a journal at the school's print shop.

With Colonel Frank's approval, the first number appeared in January, 1892. For the first four years of its existence, the JOURNAL appeared as a quarterly. During 1892, the control and editing of the publication was vested in a committee of the five officers named above.

Beginning with 1893, Lieutenant Ruckman was assigned as Editor and served in that capacity to include 1895. To those officers who have had the opportunity to follow or to study the progressive development of Coast Artillery methods as we know them today, it would prove almost startling to observe the extent to which many of the devices and policies which are now so familiar as to be commonplace, had their genesis during the editorial regime of Lieutenant Ruckman. In the first four volumes of the JOURNAL may be found discussions or prophecies which embraced almost every detail of development which has subsequently taken place. While many of the ideas advanced were those of numerous officers who have since attained high rank and distinction, yet the internal evidence of the contents of these JOURNALS is conclusive enough to justify the statement that it was the catholic interest and farsighted vision of Lieutenant Ruckman which imparted an impetus to Coast Artillery progress and to the standard for the JOURNAL which have never since been wholly lost.

At the same time, the Coast Artillery owes a special deed of recognition to Lieutenant Willcox, now Colonel and Professor at the U. S. Military Academy, who not only shared in an equal degree with Lieutenant Ruckman the onerous effort of launching the JOURNAL, but as well was perhaps the first officer to visual the need and opportunity.

At the end of 1895, due to his impaired health, Lieutenant Ruckman was relieved as Editor, and in January, 1896 the position was assumed by First Lieutenant John P. Wisser, First Artillery,

with Lieutenant George Blakely, Second Artillery, as assistant. At the same time the JOURNAL was changed from a quarterly to a bi-monthly, which it continued to be until May, 1919, since which time the JOURNAL has been published monthly.

During Lieutenant (and later Captain) Wisser's administration, Lieutenant Blakely was succeeded as assistant editor by Lieutenant Andrew Hero, Jr., 4th Artillery, Lieutenant C. C. Williams, 4th Artillery, and again by Lieutenant Hero.

After the promotion of Captain Wisser to Major in November, 1901, he was transferred to a new station in March, 1902. Captain E. M. Weaver, Artillery Corps, serving as temporary editor, brought out the March-April issue for 1902, while Captain John D. Barrette had charge during the production of the May-June number.

On July 1st, 1902, the new Editor, Captain Andrew Hero, Jr., Artillery Corps, assumed his duties, serving in this capacity until September 20, 1907, when he was relieved by Major Thomas W. Winston, C. A. C., who served until June 29, 1912.

Since then, the Editors in order have been Major James M. Williams, C. A. C., to September, 1915, Lieutenant Colonel Henry D. Todd, Jr., C. A. C. to July 1917, Colonel John A. Lundeen, U. S. A. retired, until December, 1918, Colonel Robert R. Welshimer, C. A., to September 30, 1919, succeeded on October 1, 1919 by the present incumbent.

During all these years of the JOURNAL'S history its policy has gradually changed to conform to the modifying trend of thought and policy of the Coast Artillery. Furthermore in later years, as at the present time, the editorial policy has been directed by the Chief of Coast Artillery. It is not out of place to observe that under the present Chief of Coast Artillery the editorial policy indicated for the JOURNAL is the least untrammelled in its history in the latitude allowed for the encouragement of free and open discussion by Coast Artillery officers on every sort of topic related to Coast Artillery activity and progress. It is to be hoped that with the assumption of its new name, THE COAST ARTILLERY JOURNAL may open a new chapter of even wider usefulness to the Corps.

* * * * *

Collected Table of Contents Available for the Journal of U.S. Artillery and the Coast Artillery Journal 1892-1954

Mark Berhow has recently completed assembling a collated set of tables of contents for the *Journal of the United States Artillery* (1892-1922), The *Coast Artillery Journal* (1922-1948) and the *Antiaircraft Journal* (1948-1954). He ran the images through a optical character recognition program. The process was not perfect, but one can try to do a text search in the PDFs. The TOC files have been posted at CDSG.org/download. As noted these journals are available for download from various on line sources such as Google Books or Hathaway Trust. The CDSG has a nearly complete PDF collection of all three journals plus *Liaison* (1919-1921) that is available by request from info@cdsg.org.

* * * * *

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.

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, Mark Berhow and Glen Milam.

Send donations to (and made out to):

CDSG Fund c/o Glem Milam
22150 Pondsville Road, Smithsburg, MD 21783
Or use your credit card via PayPal on the www.cdsg.org website.

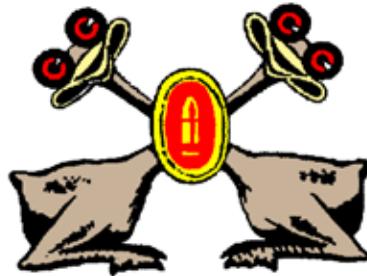
Send Fund Project requests to:

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.



New!! CDSG Shop Item cdsg.org/shop
Oozlefinch Pin \$5



* * * * *

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/

* * *

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!



* * * * *

Warship International Steam Back Into History...

Go to sea with the ships of the world's navies – the USN's *Essex* & *Independence*-class carriers, the *Arizona*, the Japanese I-400 class subs, HMS *Vanguard*, Czarist Russia's battleships, and French cruisers of the 1922 Program. These are subjects of some of the articles that have appeared in recent issues of *Warship International*. These issues are still in print and can be obtained at special rates for new members.

What ever happened to USS *Lexington*'s (CV-2) 8" guns?
How much do you know about the cannon of "Old Ironsides"?
Want to learn more about early naval radio experiments?

These questions and many more are answered in each issue of the world's most unique naval journal – WARSHIP INTERNATIONAL.

A ONE VOLUME SUBSCRIPTION of 4 QUARTERLY ISSUES IS ONLY- U.S.A. \$42.00, CANADA \$45.00, OUTSIDE NORTH AMERICA \$55.00. We now feature Pay-Pal.

A SAMPLE COPY \$3.00, this includes postage & handling.
WARSHIP INTERNATIONAL
Dept. CD
P.O. Box 48
Holden, MA 01520-0048
See us on the World Wide Web: <http://www.warship.org>

Help Preserve Our Military Heritage

Council on America's Military Past

See our web site for information on publications and activities

www.campjamp.org



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>.

* * * * *

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.

The *Artilleryman* Magazine
96 Craig Street, Suite 112-333
East Ellijay, GA 30540
Call (706) 940-2673
email: mail@ArtillerymanMagazine.com
<http://www.ArtillerymanMagazine.com>

* * * * *

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
Three issues of the CASEMATE Magazine
Two Webinars a month
An annual conference and tour in the UK
An annual international tour
UK Members Days and Study Tours

International digital memberships are £20.

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:

Glen Milam, Membership Chairman
 22150 Pondsville Road, Smithsburg, MD 21783
 membership@cdsg.org

2024-2025 Board of Directors of the CDSG

Ned Libby
 Paul Prentiss
 Andy Grant

CDSG Publications

Mark Berhow, Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
 Editors—Norm Scarpulla, David Page, Carol Weaver, Renee Wagner

CDSG Press & ePress

Terry McGovern, Chair

CDSG Fund

T. McGovern, M. Berhow, G. Milam, Trustees

Membership Committee

Glen Milam, Chair

Finance Committee

Terry McGovern, Treasurer & Secretary

Preservation & Interpretation Committee

Gordon Bliss, Chair

Representative & Outreach Committee

Norm Scarpulla, Chair

Projects & Website Committee

Mark Berhow, Chris Zeeman

Audit Committee

Ned Libby, Chair

Nominations Committee

Gordon Bliss, Chair

Upcoming Conference and Tour Committees

2026—Oahu, Hawaii
 2027—Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island
 2028—San Francisco, California

The CDSG supports the FortWiki website
http://www.fortwiki.com/Fort_Wiki

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 1985-2025. \$50—PDF files of the entire set of *CDSG News/Journal/Newsletters* 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.	\$45
Both items:	
<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, revised 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 Vol 1, North Atlantic Coast</i>	\$40
<i>American Seacoast Forts, a Directory Vol 2, S. Atlantic & Gulf Coasts</i>	\$40
<i>American Seacoast Forts, a Directory Vol 3, Pacific Coast</i>	\$40
<i>American Seacoast Forts, a Directory Vol 4, Overseas Bases</i>	\$40
by McGovern, Berhow, Williford, Hardcover (Amazon list price \$49.95)	

Send orders: CDSG Press Order, or online at cdsg.org/shop

Checks payable to: CDSG Press

C/O Terry McGovern,
 1700 Oak Lane, McLean, VA 22101-3326
 email: tcmcgovern@att.net