COAST DEFENSE STUDY GROUP (CDSG)

2027 Annual Conference: Harbor Defenses of Narragansett Bay & New Bedford

Tuesday, April 27 – Saturday, May 1, 2027 | Optional Add-On Day: Sunday, May 2, 2027 (Fort H.G. Wright, Fishers Island, NY)

Join fellow members to explore the historic coastal fortifications of Rhode Island and Massachusetts. From massive Third System masonry works to Endicott and WWII fire control stations, this conference features rare access to restricted sites across Narragansett Bay and New Bedford.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS & TOUR SITES

- **Fort Adams State Park (Newport, RI):** Home to the most guns of any Third System fort, extensive land defenses, the Advanced Redoubt, and numerous Endicott batteries.
- **Dutch Island / Fort Greble (Exclusive Access):** Normally closed to the public; features unique Rodman batteries, Endicott batteries, and Civil War earthworks.
- **Camp Varnum / Fort Varnum (Narragansett, RI):** Active WWII Coast Artillery post housing 4 intact "disguised-cottage" fire control stations and gun blocks for 3 batteries.
- **Additional Narragansett Bay Sites:** Fort Greene (West/South), Fort Kearny, Fort Getty, Fort Wetherill, and Fort Burnside. (Fort Church pending permission).
- **New Bedford, MA Sites:** Fort Taber (Fort Rodman) and Fort Phoenix.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO SITE PERMISSIONS)

- **Tuesday, April 27:** Check-in & registration (4:00 PM – 6:00 PM). Welcome briefing and evening presentations begin at 7:00 PM.
- **Wednesday, April 28:** Fort Greble (Dutch Island), Fort Getty, Prospect Hill, and Fort Wetherill. Evening briefing and presentations at 7:00 PM.
- **Thursday, April 29:** Fort Greene (West, East, South), Fort Varnum (Camp Varnum), Fort Kearny, and Fort Burnside. Evening briefing and presentations at 7:00 PM.
- **Friday, April 30:** Full-day tour of Fort Adams. Evening briefing, Annual Banquet, and Business Meeting at the hotel.
- **Saturday, May 1:** Fort Church (West, East, South — pending) and Fort Rodman/Taber (New Bedford). Conference formally concludes after the daily tour (no evening session).

OPTIONAL ADD-ON DAY: FORT H.G. WRIGHT (FISHERS ISLAND, NY) — SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2027

- **Itinerary:** Main Gun Line (Hoffman, Hamilton, Barlow, Butterfield, Dutton, Marcy), Battery 215 (Dynamite Gun), Mosquito Hollow (Clinton, Bombproof Switchboard/Mine Casemate, SASR building, Hoppock), Henry L. Ferguson Museum, Mount Prospect (HDCP/HECP, Battery 111), Battery 214, Hill 90, and North Hill Battery.
- **Travel & Logistics:** Ferries depart early from New London, CT (suggested overnight stay in New London on Saturday night). Current round-trip passenger fare is $33.00 (group discounts available for 20+ participants). Island shuttles will be arranged, so personal vehicles are not needed on the ferry.

LODGING & TRAVEL INFORMATION

- **Conference Headquarters:** Wayfinder Newport, 151 Admiral Kalbfus Road, Newport, RI 02840.
- **Reservations & Rates:** Call (401) 849-9880 or visit wayfindernewport.com and mention the CDSG Room Block. Group rates are $129/night (Weekdays) and $199/night (Friday night), plus taxes and a discounted $25/night resort fee (regularly $45).
- **Recommended Airport:** T.F. Green International Airport (PVD) in Providence, RI.

IMPORTANT FIELD SAFETY & PACKING NOTES

- **Required Gear & Weather:** Bring sturdy footwear and at least one flashlight (two recommended). New England spring weather is unpredictable, and Narragansett Bay winds can make temperatures feel much colder—dress in layers.
- **Ticks & Noxious Plants:** Ticks carrying Lyme Disease and Alpha-Gal Syndrome are heavily prevalent in the region—especially on Jamestown and Dutch Island. Poison ivy, sumac, oak, and stinging nettle are also common. Wear protective clothing and use insect repellent.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Conference Fee: $190.00 per person (Estimated based on 50 attendees; includes site entrance fees, boat transportation, conference room, handouts, and the Friday night banquet.)

Register Online: Registration can also be done on the CDSG.org website by visiting the Store (or directly at www.cdsg.org/shop).

Questions? Contact Christopher Zeeman at c_zeeman@hotmail.com.

2027 CDSG ANNUAL CONFERENCE — MAIL-IN REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mobile Phone: _____ Email: _____

Do you plan to attend the Add-On Day to Fort H.G. Wright on Sunday, May 2? [ ] Yes [ ] No

Do you wish to give an evening presentation? If yes, list topic(s): _____

Number Attending: _____ × $190.00 = Total Enclosed: $_____

Make checks payable to: Christopher Zeeman | **Mail to:** Christopher Zeeman, 11 Farm Pond Road, North Stonington, CT 06359













