

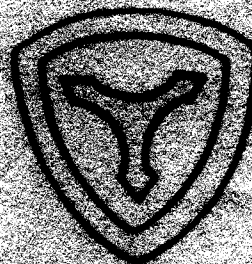
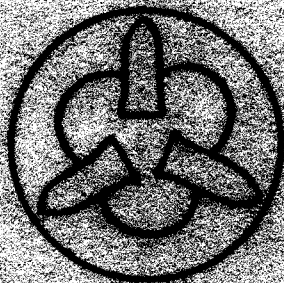
CDSC Conference Schedule
Saturday, 21 October 2000

Fort Story, Virginia

StBabs2000



ChesBay

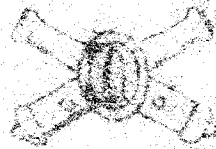


Hosted by: U.S. Army, Headquarters, Fort Story
The Old Coast Guard Station, Virginia Beach

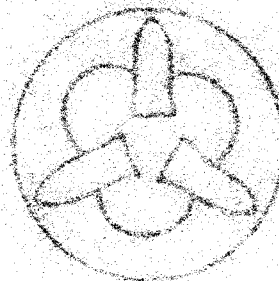
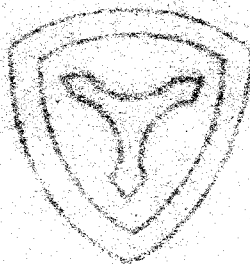
2000 Conference Schedule
Sunday, 21 October 2000

Fort Story, Virginia

21843000



Chesley



Hosted by U.S. Army Headquarters Fort Story
The Old Coast Guard Station, Virginia Beach

driving instructions to Fort Story, Virginia

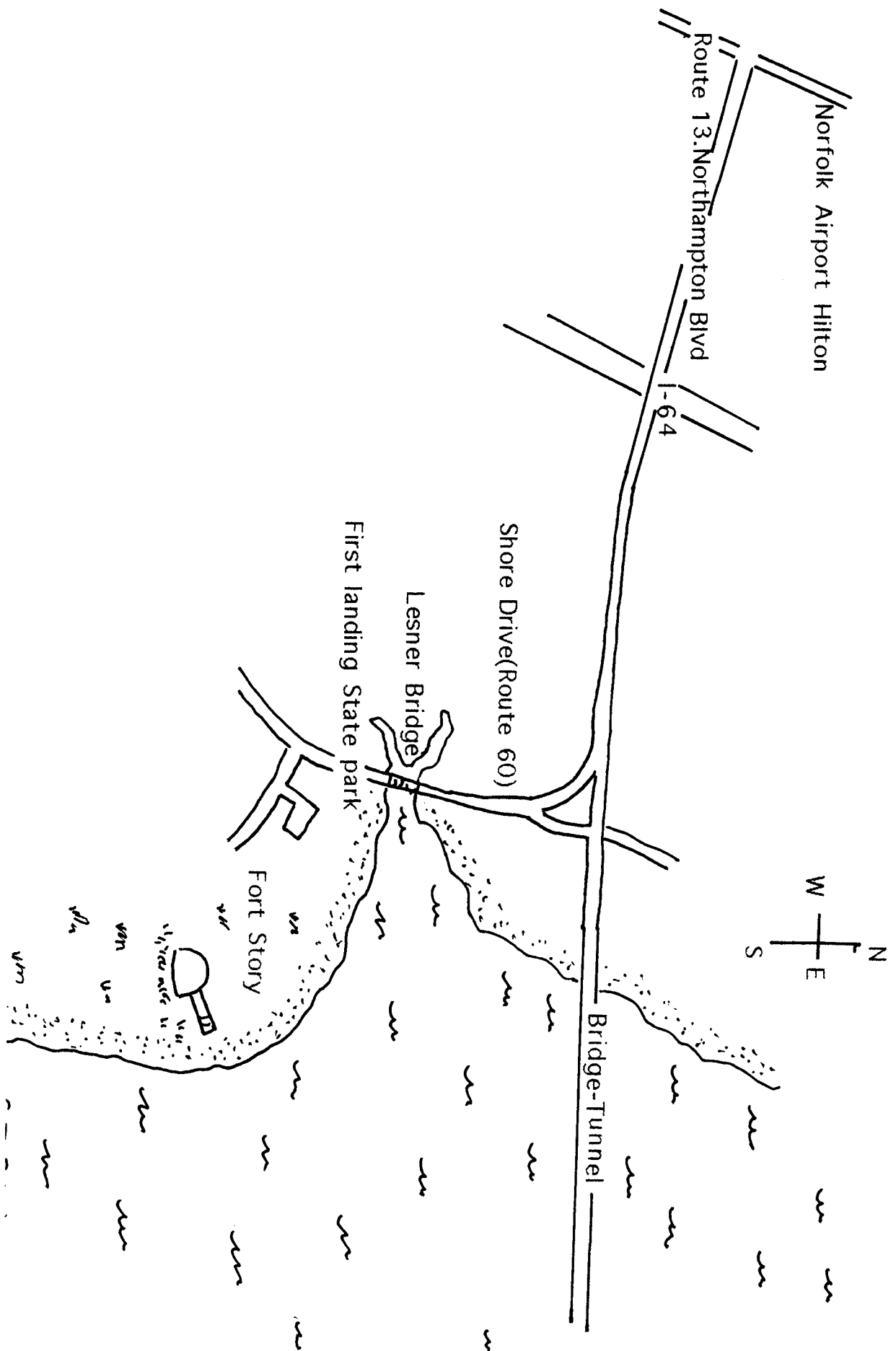
total driving time 18 minutes- distance 10 1/2 miles

- depart Norfolk Airport Hilton . left turn onto North Military Highway.
- immediate left at first light onto Northhampton Boulevard. (Route 13)
- continue straight on Northhampton Blvd under Interstate 64.
- get off to right at Yellow Exit marked Shore Drive/Beaches (Route 60).
This is last exit before Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel
- You are on Shore Drive (Route 60 East) heading east.
- cross over Lesner Bridge on Shore Drive. Chesapeake Bay on left.
- pass thru light on Great Neck Road
- pass light at entrance to First Landing State Park on Shore Drive (Route 60 East)
- half mile after light left turn at Fort Story sign (Route 304.)
- enter West Gate (gate will be unmanned)
- half block turn left to Fort Story Club.
- group gather in parking lot.

Fort Story is an active Army installation. Please obey all posted speed limits while you are a visitor on Fort Story.

contact F.L. Tyler at cell phone (757) 647-7931 enroute

Norfolk Airport Hilton to Fort Story



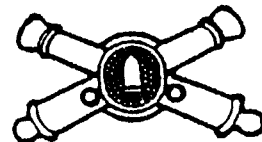
FORT STORY, VIRGINIA:

A TOUR OF THE FORMER SEACOAST

ARTILLERY POSITIONS



St.Babs2000



ChesBay

Fort Story, Virginia

- o originally established and fortified in 1917 to protect the southern portion of the entrance to the Chesapeake Bay during World War I.
- o reduced to caretaker status between conflicts
- o expanded greatly in land area and troop strength with the approach of World War II.
- o served as principal coast defense installation for the Harbor Defenses of Chesapeake Bay.
- o heavily fortified with armament consisting of modern 6-inch and 16-inch weapons in addition to guns of smaller caliber, mines, searchlights and seacoast radars.
- o following the conflict, mission transferred to the US Army Transportation Corps.
- o served as home station for a variety of amphibious units involved in over the beach operations.
- o trained and deployed transportation units during the conflict in Vietnam.
- o involved in evolution and upgrade of amphibious vehicles from the DUKW to the LARC and eventually the LACV.
- o continues to support joint logistics over-the-shore operations into the 21st Century.

Fort Story units participated in the Gulf War as well as military actions in Somalia, Haiti and other worldwide deployments requiring specific transportation needs. The beaches at Cape Henry continue to provide training areas for joint exercises and watercraft testing. The post is presently the home station for the 11th Transportation Battalion as well as tenant activities of the US Navy, US Marine Corps, US Coast Guard and the US Army Reserve.

Compiled by: Fielding Lewis Tyler
Old Coast Guard Station, Virginia Beach, Virginia
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updated: September 2000

driving armament tour, Fort Story, Virginia

START IN PARKING LOT.FORT STORY CLUB:

1. **Fort Story Club.** Site of Battery 19, commonly called Examination Battery. Completed July 1942 and manned by soldiers from Battery H, 246th Coast Artillery Regiment. Armament consisted of two 3-inch guns to cover the convoy marshaling area in Lynnhaven Roads. Battery dismounted in July 1945. The site was designated as Granite and three fire control towers and a combined switchboard and cable hut were located here. Inside West Gate at Kwajlein Road on bay front. **Only battery magazine and switchboard building remain.**

2. **Mine Casemate.** Designated as Battery 7-A . This tract of land acquired by US Army in 1914. Casemate constructed in 1922 and operated a portion of the controlled mine field at the entrance to the Chesapeake Bay. Manned by soldiers from Battery E, 2d Coast Artillery Regiment. The mine field removed following WW II and control site abandoned. Later used by US Army Harbormaster and currently not in use. Off Atlantic Avenue at Eniwetok Road. **Present site consists of mine casemate (Building 900), a concrete observation post and steel frame observation tower.**

3.**Integrated Fire Control (IFC) Area, Hercules Missile Battery.** Former site of Nike-Hercules radar control system operational in 1958 . Initially manned by soldiers from Battery D, 4th Battalion, 59th Artillery. Battery inactivated and the missile site closed down by April 1974. Radar domes removed at a later date. Remaining buildings currently occupied by Amphibious Reconnaissance School, U.S. Marine Corps. **Buildings intact and in use.**

4.**Battery 21.** Modern-type 90mm gun position with battery commanders station completed October 1942. Armament consisted of a pair of fixed 90mm Anti-Motor Torpedo Boat (AMTB) guns with shields. Armament removed following WW II. Building 704 formerly served as Military Police Station. Nearby **Battery 22** also mounted a pair of 90mm AMTB guns. Battery came online in August 1943 with crew from Battery I, 246th Coast Artillery. Placed in maintenance status in July 1945 and scrapped in 1950. Off Atlantic

Avenue. Battery 21 and battery commanders station currently used by the 396th Harbormaster Detachment, U.S. Army Battery 22 only concrete platforms remain on beach.

5.Post Commanders Quarters Originally constructed in 1918 as US Weather Station. Served for many years in that capacity. During WW II used as Joint-Service Harbor Entrance Control Point for the Army harbor defense commander and the Navy Approach and Entrance Force. Building 734 currently serves as quarters for the post commander and his family. Off Atlantic Avenue at Leyte Road on beachfront. **Private quarters. access restricted.**

6.Mine Casemate. Constructed in 1933 initially as a Harbor Defense Command Station. Later served as Mine Casemate Number 1 to control a portion of the underwater mines at the entrance to the Chesapeake Bay. Later redesignated as Number 2. In use by US Army. Off Cebu Island Road under the old Cape Henry Lighthouse. **Access restricted.**

7.Battery AA No.1. Three concrete open antiaircraft (AA) gun emplacements with covered magazines completed in August 1943. Replaced 3 3-inch AA gun positions emplaced on the sites around 1918. Armament consisted of three 3-inch Model 1917 M1A2 fixed guns originally on site. Armament removed following WW II. In primary dune line east of Cape Henry Road at end of Algiers Road. **Currently not used, partially sand-filled and overgrown with oak trees and brush.**

In 1917 5-inch M1903 designated Battery B and 6-inch M1900 guns of Battery A mounted to east of AA guns Removed following WW I. **Only concrete mounts remain Can be viewed at extreme low tide.**

8.Battery Worcester. An early prewar prototype battery completed in May 1941. Armament consisted of a pair of 6-inch M-1900 guns on barbette carriages with battery commanders station on top. Manned by soldiers from Battery E, 246th Coast Artillery Regiment during WW II. Following conflict armament removed and scrapped. Casemate and battery commanders station both currently in use. On Sansapor Road behind Post Headquarters. **Access restricted**

9.Battery Cramer. Modern-type 6-inch gun position completed May 1942. Armament consisted of a pair of 6-inch M1903 guns with a cast steel shield. Armament removed in 1949. Adjacent to US Navy Shipboard Electronic System Evaluation Facility(SESEF) Off Atlantic Avenue on Cape Henry Road near East Gate. **Building 101 used as storage by SESEF.**

9A. **Battery U.** A pre-World War II (1931) supplemental 155 mm battery with 4 guns. Mounted on 180 degree traverse reinforced concrete emplacements termed "Panama mounts." Battery replaced by modern 6-inch guns. **Panama Mount for Gun No. 1 partially covered in dune line. Three other Panama Mounts on beach, uncovered by storm in summer 1999.**

10. **Battery 10** Modern-type 6-inch gun position completed in October 1943. Armament consisted of a pair of 6-inch Model T2 guns with a 4 to 6 inch cast steel shield. Manned by soldiers from Battery H, 246th Coast Artillery Regiment during WW II. Armament removed following the war. Building 317 off Atlantic Avenue on Vera Cruz Road. **Used as fire training facility on occasion. Restricted access.**

11. **Batteries Pennington and Walke.** Originally a four -gun 16-inch M1920 howitzer battery designated Battery Alexander C.M. Pennington. Construction on gun platforms, magazines, shell rooms and interconnecting railroad tracks completed and transferred to the Coast Artillery in October 1922. Mounting of armament completed in October 1924. In 1940 two left guns designated Battery Walke. Gun positions covered with steel shields late in 1944. Guns cut up and sold for scrap about 1949. West of Atlantic Avenue off Coast Artillery Road on south end of installation . **A number of magazines and shell rooms used as storage by US Army. One gun platform remains, covered with brush. Other gun platforms were located in present-day enlisted housing area and Army Travel Camp. The Battery Commanders Station for Battery Walke was located in the Cape Henry Lighthouse on the level below the lantern room.**

12. **Plotting Rooms, Batteries Pennington and Walke** Concrete casemate built in 1923 in reverse of secondary dune. Provided rooms for plotting targets and adjusting gunfire. Instruments required to be some distance from the concussion of weapons firing. Building 401 also provided room for the post switchboard. Later received upgrade. Adjacent to **Reinforced Concrete Tunnel** 280 feet in length with 225 foot retaining wall connecting the gun positions with the reverse of the secondary dune. Constructed 1922-1923, it provided a concealed and protected location for the ammunition and shell railway cars. On Coast Artillery Road. **Plotting room currently used on occasion as Army classroom.**

13. **Harbor Defense Command Post.** Concrete multi-room casemate built into the reverse of the secondary dune. During WW II, Headquarters, Harbor Defenses of Chesapeake Bay (HDCB) moved from Fort Monroe to Fort Story. Permanent complex to house the HDCB headquarters completed on 1 November 1943. This facility closed following the war and the HDCB inactivated by 1 January 1950. Complex utilized by transportation battalions

and Post personnel offices following World War II. On Coast Artillery Road. **Presently not in use**

14. Plotting, Spotting and Radio (PSR) Room, Battery Ketcham Concrete casemate built into reverse of secondary dune. Provided room for plotting targets and adjusting gunfire. Instruments required to be away from the concussion of weapons firing. On Coast Artillery Road. **Building 403 in use by Directorate of Information Management, Ft. Story.**

15. Battery Ketcham Modern-type 16-inch casemated gun position completed in November 1943. Armament consisted of a pair of Mark II, Mod.1 Navy guns. Manned by soldiers from Battery C, 246th Coast Artillery Regiment during WW II. Armament removed and scrapped around 1949. From about 1978 until 1995 Building 605 was occupied by Explosive Ordnance Demolition Training and Evaluation Unit 2 (EOD TEU 2), US Navy and the interior was modified for their use. Later occupied by units of the U.S. Army Reserve. On First Landing Road. **Currently not in use.**

16. Plotting, Spotting and Radio (PSR) Room, Battery 4 . Concrete casemate built into reverse of secondary dune. Provided room for plotting targets and adjusting fire for 16-inch guns. Instruments required to be away from the concussion caused by the firing of the main armament. On Al Jubayl Road. **Building 809 in use by the EOD Shipboard Training facility.**

17. Battery Number 4. Modern-type 16-inch casemated gun position completed in November 1943. Armament consisted of two Mark II, Mod.1 Navy guns separated by 500-foot gallery. Assigned battery Fire Control Tower still standing at 68th Street at the North End in Virginia Beach. Armament removed and scrapped around 1949. Later used as maintenance facility for adjacent U.S. Army Nike-Hercules surface-to-air missile battery. In 1995 Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training & Evaluation Unit 2 (EOD TEU2) moved into new building sited on southern side of battery. **Sections of battery in use by EOD TEU 2 with the major portion in use by other US Navy units.**

18. NIKE missile launch area. former launcher site for NIKE-Hercules Air Defense Artillery missile battery which was built in 1958 and dismantled in 1974. Contained underground magazines and elevator for raising missiles to surface for firing. Other buildings for assembly, testing, storage , repair and liquid filling. On Al Jubayl Road off Hospital Road. **Underground entry restricted. Some buildings in use by US Army.**

END TOUR. Return To Fort Story Club via Hospital Road.

Fort Story elements. Harbor Defenses of Chesapeake Bay. WW II

The Harbor Defenses of Chesapeake Bay (HDCB) also had other major armament in the form of mobile railway guns and 155mm GPF weapons. These were gradually replaced by modern weapons. Smaller caliber weapons and machine guns were in place for close-in protection of the batteries. Searchlight platforms, seacoast radar towers, command post towers in addition to fire control towers completed the armament package for the HDCB. A number of the towers were located off the installation along the oceanfront to the south of Fort Story. As of this writing only two of these fire control remain. The Casemate tower is on dune above the Mine Casemate and is not in use. The other is located on the beach at 68th Street and is excess to the need of the Navy and will be dismantled in 2001. Of the other support facilities, in many cases only pieces of concrete remain of the once powerful seacoast defense system.

Sources

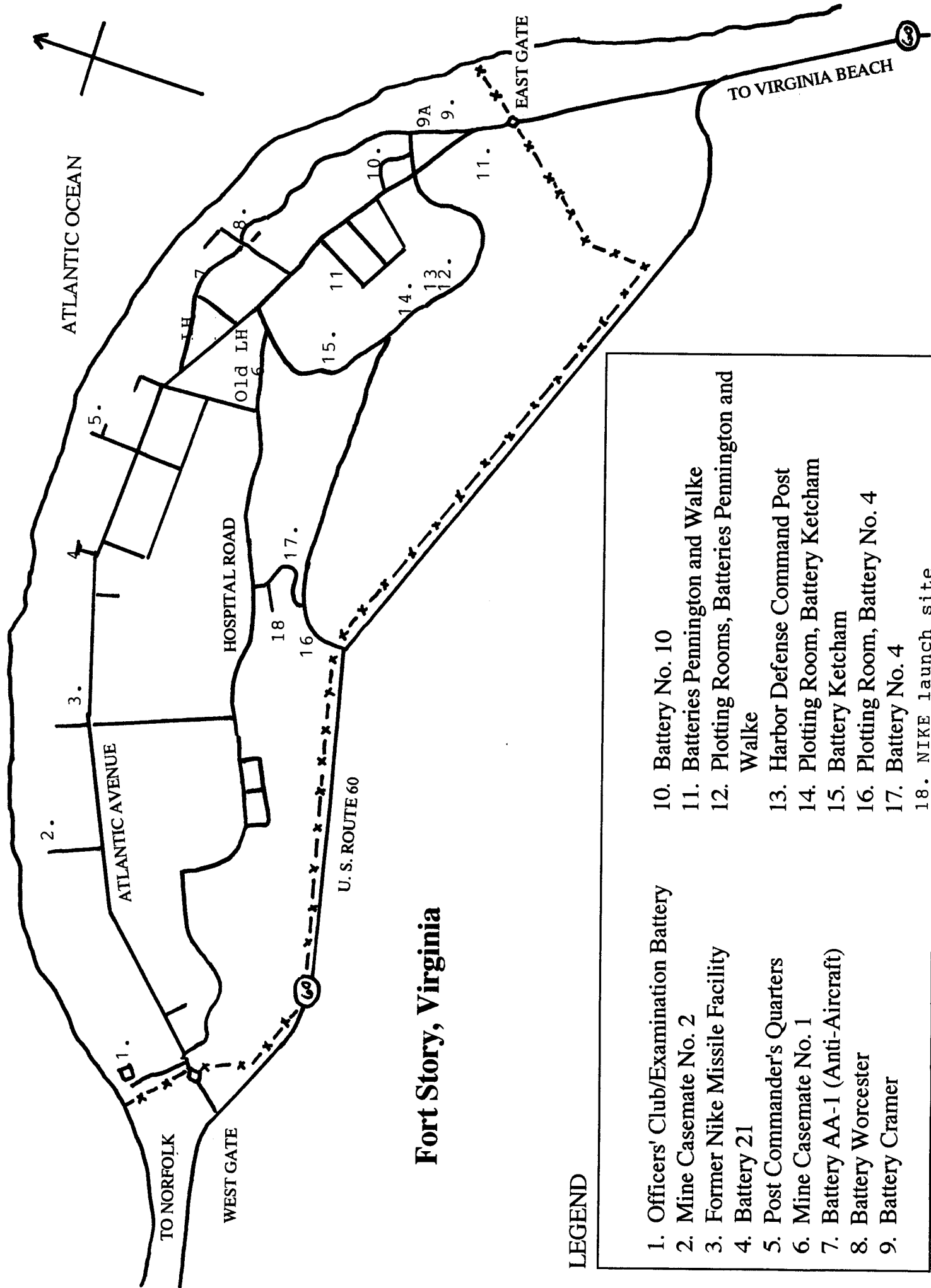
This tour and armament list is intended solely for the occasional visitor and is by no means comprehensive. The serious student of seacoast artillery should consult other available information on the subject. The Coast Defense Study Group at www.cdsg.org offers additional information on seacoast artillery.

For additional information please contact the Public Affairs Officer, Olivia "Libby" Alfrend at Fort Story, Virginia (757) 422-7101, extension 230 or the author of this paper, Fielding L. Tyler at The Old Coast Guard Station on 24th Street in Virginia Beach. Station phone is (757) 422-1587, FAX at (757)491-8606 or e-mail at FTylerVB2@aol.com.

Recommended reading:

Weinert, Richard P.Jr., Defender of the Chesapeake. Shippensburg, PA. White Mane Publishing Company, Inc.,1989.

Lewis,E.Raymond, Seacoast Fortifications of the United States. Annapolis, MD, Originally published by Smithsonian Institution Press,1970 Republished by U.S. Naval Institute Press. 1979,1985,1988,1990, 1992,1993.



Fort Story, Virginia

LEGEND

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Officers' Club/Examination Battery | 10. Battery No. 10 |
| 2. Mine Casemate No. 2 | 11. Batteries Pennington and Walke |
| 3. Former Nike Missile Facility | 12. Plotting Rooms, Batteries Pennington and Walke |
| 4. Battery 21 | 13. Harbor Defense Command Post |
| 5. Post Commander's Quarters | 14. Plotting Room, Battery Ketcham |
| 6. Mine Casemate No. 1 | 15. Battery Ketcham |
| 7. Battery AA-1 (Anti-Aircraft) | 16. Plotting Room, Battery No. 4 |
| 8. Battery Worcester | 17. Battery No. 4 |
| 9. Battery Cramer | 18. NIKE launch site |