

HARBOR DEFENSE PROJECT -- HARBOR DEFENSES OF KEY WEST

	Paragraph
MISSION	1
GUN DEFENSE	2
FIRE CONTROL INSTALLATIONS	3
SEARCHLIGHTS	4
UNDERWATER DEFENSE	5
ANTIAIRCRAFT GUN DEFENSE	6
SUPPORTING AIRCRAFT	7
PREPARATION OF ANNEXES	8
FINAL APPROVAL	9

ANNEXES

- A Seacoast Guns
- B Fire Control Installations
- C Searchlights
- D Antiaircraft Gun Defense
- E Estimates - Chief of Coast Artillery
- F Estimates - Chief of Engineers
- G Estimates - Chief of Ordnance
- H Estimates - Chief Signal Officer

INCLOSURE

- 1 Fields of Fire, Seacoast Guns

1. MISSION.

a. To protect harbor facilities, naval shore installations, and shipping in Key West harbor from gunfire in minor naval attacks.

b. To deny to the enemy the use of the harbor.

c. To support the defense against landing attacks within the range of armament installed.

2. GUN DEFENSE.

a. The following table lists the number of guns, now installed in this harbor defense, by classes:

	: Fort	: Martello	:
	: Taylor	: Tower No. 1	: Total
Primary, medium range	: 10	: 0	: 10
Secondary, short range	: 2	: 2	: 4

b. (1) The approach to Key West harbor through the numerous shoals and islets is difficult under the best of conditions and if the aids to navigation were removed and navigating ranges altered it would be extremely hazardous for a ship drawing more than 10 feet of water to attempt the passage. Tidal currents are an added danger. The closest approach to Key West before encountering these shoals is on the south where deep water is available within 10,000 yards of the harbor. Battery Osceola, 2 - 12-inch guns, covers the water area south of the shoals to a distance of 18,000 yards from the harbor. This is sufficient to be a serious threat against enemy capital ships which might attempt to close in to a range which would permit effective use of secondary armament. Neither the 10-inch battery, De Leon, nor the 12-inch mortar battery, Seminole, has sufficient range to hold enemy capital ships beyond 15,000 yards. Battery Seminole covers a small water area north of Key West in which suitable targets could operate. Battery De Leon has four guns and the only water area over which all four bear is to the southwest covering a channel which by the removal of lights and buoys can be virtually closed to ships which could be fired on effectively by this battery. Much of the field of fire of the battery is over water areas so shallow that not even a destroyer would be likely to operate in them. There is no battery now installed which could be used effectively against destroyers operating just south of the shoals south of Key West. There is no likelihood that Key West will ever be of sufficient importance to justify a determined attack by large ships. There is however, a possibility that destroyers and other rapid light craft might undertake to cause damage by gunfire if they could get close enough to the shore installations to make this feasible. Since the 10-inch gun battery is relatively ineffective against fast moving destroyers and since it cannot hold larger ships at a range greater than effective range of their secondary armament it will be eliminated and a battery of 155 mm. guns provided. These will be mounted on concrete platforms to permit a wide field of fire. Battery Seminole, 4 - 12-inch mortars, will be retained in Class C for maintenance.

(2) Batteries Ford and Inman, each of 2 - 3inch guns, will be retained for use against destroyers or smaller craft which might attempt to penetrate close to Key West in spite of the shoal water.

c. (1) The following seacoast guns are considered necessary to carry out the mission of the harbor defense:

Location	Battery	No. of Guns	Caliber	Type of Carriage	Maximum Range	Maintenance Class	Remarks
Ft. Taylor	Osceola	2	12"	BC	17300	B	
	Seminole	4	12"	Mortar	14650	C	
	Ford	2	3"	BC	9000	B	
To be selected	-	4	155 mm.	Mobile	17200	-	To be mounted on concrete platform for wide field of fire.
Martello Tower No. 1	Inman	2	3"	BC	9000	B	

For details of fields of fire see Inclosure 1, Fields of Fire, Seacoast Guns.

(2) The following batteries now installed are no longer required:

Fort	Battery	No. of Guns	Caliber	Type of Carriage	Maximum Range
Taylor	De Leon	4	10"	DC	14100

(3) Selection of the exact site for the battery of 155 mm. guns will be made as prescribed in paragraph 30, AR 100-20, August 26, 1932. When the position is approved the local Board will prepare a statement of the requirements for the installation of the guns. When approved, this will be attached as Annex A, Seacoast Guns. This annex will include a statement of the War Reserve Ammunition Allowance for each seacoast battery and the Battle Allowance for each battery as determined by the local Board.

3. FIRE CONTROL INSTALLATIONS.

Fire control installations for batteries now emplaced are complete. As prescribed in paragraph 13, Part III, the local Board will prepare a statement of the requirements for fire control installations for all armament including changes effected by this project. This, when approved, will be attached as Annex B, Fire Control Installations.

4. SEARCHLIGHTS.

A project approved in the 4th Indorsement, AG 470.35 (Misc. Div.) dated February 26, 1920, provides for five fixed 60-inch searchlights. These are installed on temporary wooden towers, three at Fort Taylor and two at Martello Tower No. 1 (West). The local Board will make a study and prepare a statement of the requirements for searchlights as changed by the elimination and addition of batteries. This, when approved, will be attached as Annex C, Searchlights.

5. UNDERWATER DEFENSE.

No underwater defense project is contemplated for this harbor.

6. ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN DEFENSE.

a. There is one battery of two 3-inch anti-aircraft guns at Fort Taylor. This will be increased to a three-gun battery.

b. Anti-aircraft searchlights and sound locators are also required. Three lights and sound locators should be sufficient.

c. The local Board will prepare a statement of all requirements for the anti-aircraft gun and machine gun defense for the harbor defense installations. When approved, this will be attached as Annex D, Anti-aircraft Gun Defense.

7. SUPPORTING AIRCRAFT.

In view of the fact that there are no long range guns in this harbor defense and that it is located in the midst of an extensive group of small islands no need exists for supporting aircraft.

8. PREPARATION OF ANNEXES.

a. Annexes A to D inclusive, will be prepared by the local Board provided for in paragraph 1 d, AR 100-20, August 26, 1932. Each annex will include a complete statement of the installations to which it pertains, and details, including estimates of cost, of installations required to complete the project. Tables and charts will be used where practicable to reduce to a minimum the bulk of papers constituting an annex. Complete correspondence pertaining to the subject matter of the annexes will not be included but may be referred to by file numbers of The Adjutant General's Office. When these annexes are approved by the War Department they will serve as the basis for unified estimates to be prepared by the Chiefs of interested Arms and Services.

b. Annexes E, F, G, and H will be prepared by the Chiefs of Arms and Services as indicated on the title page of this paper. These annexes will be unified estimates of the cost of the approved project. They will be prepared after Annexes A to D inclusive have been approved by the War Department.

c. The following priority will govern in the provision of armament and accessories for this harbor defense:

- (1) Anti-aircraft gun defense.
- (2) Searchlight project.
- (3) Platforms for 155 mm. guns.

9. FINAL APPROVAL.

The approval of this project by the War Department establishes it as the basic project for the Harbor Defenses of Key West. As annexes are approved they supersede existing projects covering the same installations.