



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE U.S. ARMY CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY
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SM 4/10/13


Chief of Military History

APR 10 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR Fort Hancock 21st Century Federal Advisory Committee and the Superintendent, Gateway National Recreation Area, ATTN: Linda Canzanelli, 210 New York Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10305

SUBJECT: Fort Hancock and Sandy Hook, New Jersey Naming Convention

1. The Sandy Hook Unit of Gateway National Recreational Area includes property and structures that are significant to the history of the United States Army. The entire unit while under Army control was officially designated "Fort Hancock". I encourage the Federal Advisory Committee to include a recommendation to the National Park Service to add Fort Hancock to the Sandy Hook unit's name, i.e., Fort Hancock-Sandy Hook. Given the changes brought on by Super-Storm Sandy, the timing for making this name change is most appropriate.
2. The U.S. Army had a presence within the current park's boundaries from the earliest days of the republic, and continuously from the Civil War through the late-Cold War. Extant structures provide evidence of the Army's role in defending the nation's seacoast with Third System and Endicott System fortifications and in protecting our airspace with anti-aircraft guns and Nike missiles. The installation was also a cradle for Army technological development as the location of the Ordnance Proving Ground from 1874 to 1919. Finally, the extant cultural resources of the main post cantonment provide a glimpse of life in a garrison community during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
3. Reflecting the many connections between the Army's historical community and the National Park Service, including our mutual interest in preserving historical resources and educating the public about our nation's past, I request your favorable consideration to recommend to the National Park Service to use the actual Army name for the installation, "Fort Hancock", in the naming of the Sandy Hook unit.


ROBERT J. DALESSANDRO
Chief of Military History