

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
ORIGINAL DATE: 8 APRIL 1994
TAG REVIEW DATE: 29 JULY 1998**

1. **SITE NAME:** Fort McDowell

SITE NUMBER: J09CA080500

LOCATION:

Angel Island
County: Marin
State: California

PROJECT NUMBER: J09CA080500

CATEGORY: OE

ASR RAC: 2

TAG RAC: 1

2. **POC's:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** Ft. McDowell is located on Angel Island in Marin County, California. Angel Island is situated approximately four miles north of the city of San Francisco. The site consists of approximately 640 acres and is separated from the mainland by the Raccoon Straits.

The site is accessible by private boat or by ferry. The ferry makes scheduled trips to the island during the tourist season (May-September). For non-scheduled ferry trips and

transportation once on the island, the California Park Service Ranger Office on Angel Island needs to be contacted.

4. SITE HISTORY: In response to the necessity of defending the San Francisco Bay, the Government established the military reservation on Angel Island on November 6, 1850. Fortifications began in earnest due to the presence of the Confederate Navy off the coast of California during the War Between the States. In the post-war period, the site was utilized as a recruiting and training depot.

In 1900, Angel Island was officially designated as Fort McDowell. During the Spanish-American War, Ft. McDowell was utilized as a recruiting and discharge center. Additionally, a quarantine station was constructed to house soldiers returning from overseas with tropical diseases. After 1901, the Army gradually discontinued use of Ft. McDowell. However, an immigration station, to include a hospital and detention ward, was established in 1908 to accommodate the large influx of immigrants entering the West Coast. In 1909, the War Department established a general recruit depot at Ft. McDowell. The depot was also to be the processing center for soldiers returning from overseas bases. In 1920, the name officially changed to "Discharge and Replacement Depot, Ft. McDowell."

The outbreak of the Second World War created an upsurge of activity at Ft. McDowell. The post was used as a staging area for all troops passing through the San Francisco Port of Embarkation until the construction of larger staging areas could be completed. Additionally, Ft. McDowell served as the initial processing center for a large number of prisoners of war, prior to their assignment to permanent camps. At the end of the war, Ft. McDowell served as the discharge and processing center for returning troops. After the war, the need for the post diminished and it was declared as surplus on September 20, 1946.

The Army returned to Ft. McDowell in 1954 and constructed a "NIKE" missile base. These missiles were intended to defend the Bay area against invading aircraft. However, this site was deactivated in December, 1962.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

| | | |
|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Area A: | Size, Acres: | Approximately 1 |
| | Former Use: | 1000" Rifle range |
| | Present Use: | State Park |
| | Probable End Use: | Same as above |
| | Ordnance Presence: | Confirmed |

| | | |
|---------|--------------------|------------------------|
| | Type: | .30 Cal |
| Area B: | Size, Acres: | Approximately 5 |
| | Former Use: | P-100, Pistol range |
| | Present Use: | State Park |
| | Probable End Use: | Same as above |
| | Ordnance Presence: | None |
| Area C: | Size, Acres: | Approximately 20 |
| | Former Use: | Special Training area |
| | Present Use: | State Park |
| | Probable End Use: | Same as above |
| | Ordnance Presence: | None |
| Area D: | Size, Acres: | Approximately 20 |
| | Former Use: | Nike Missile Base |
| | Present Use: | State Park |
| | Probable End Use: | Same as above |
| | Ordnance Presence: | None |
| Area E: | Size, Acres: | Approximately 10 |
| | Former Use: | Cannon Battery Drew |
| | Present Use: | State Park |
| | Probable End Use: | Same as above |
| | Ordnance Presence: | None |
| Area G: | Size, Acres: | Approximately 10 |
| | Former Use: | Cannon Battery Wallace |
| | Present Use: | State Park |
| | Probable End Use: | Same as above |
| | Ordnance Presence: | None |
| Area H: | Size, Acres: | Approximately 10 |
| | Former Use: | Cannon Battery Ledyard |
| | Present Use: | State Park |
| | Probable End Use: | Same as above |
| | Ordnance Presence: | None |
| Area I: | Size, Acres: | Approximately 30 |
| | Former Use: | Trash Dump |
| | Present Use: | State Park |
| | Probable End Use: | Same as above |
| | Ordnance Presence: | None |
| Area J: | Size, Acres: | Approximately 6 |
| | Former Use: | Ordnance Disposal Area |
| | Present Use: | State Park |

Probable End Use: Same as above
Ordnance Presence: Confirmed
Type: 15" Cannon Balls and
5" HE Round

Area K: Size, Acres: Approximately 528
Former Use: All Other Lands
Present Use: State Park
Probable End Use: Same as above
Ordnance Presence: None

6. **CURRENT STATUS:** The Archives Search report (ASR) for Fort McDowell/Angel Island was completed by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in March 1994.

7. **STRATEGY:**

Area A: NOFA
Area B: NOFA
Area C: NOFA
Area D: NOFA
Area E: NOFA
Area G: NOFA
Area I: NOFA
Area J: EE/CA
Area K: NOFA

8. **ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group (TAG) met and discussed this ASR on 29 July 1998 and determined that an EE/CA should be conducted in Area J to include a magnetometer sweep of this area to determine if any buried bulk ammunition items may exist there. Also the water area up to 100 yards of mean high tide in Area J should be considered, as many cannonballs may still be submerged in this area. The TAG determined NOFA for all remaining areas. **Area F** was inadvertently not used to describe any of the areas of concern. An updated (17 Mar 95) Risk Assessment Code (RAC) form is attached changing the RAC score from 2 to 1.

This report did not investigate any references to HTRW associated with the operations of Ft. McDowell. However, during this investigation, the SI Team became aware of the empty vials of Bubonic Plague anti-serum found along the beach in Ayala Cove. Further investigation may be warranted to determine which government agency, if any, left these vials and which has responsibility for any search and removal actions.

There are known Federal-and State-listed species occurring in the site area. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

9. **SCHEDULE SUMMARY:** EE/CA

10. **FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY:** For Official Use Only