

CHAPTER XXI: SIXTH U.S. ARMY, 1946-1980

A. Sixth U.S. Army, the Presidio, and Korean War, 1946-1959

The Sixth Army, "Born of War," was established in January 1943 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, to fight under Gen. Douglas MacArthur in the Southwest Pacific. Between 1943 and 1945 it fought courageously and successfully in New Guinea, the Bismark Archipelago, and the Philippine Islands. Japan surrendered on August 14, 1945, and an advance party from Sixth Army arrived in Japan on September 18. Sixth Army became the occupational force in Japan and its commander, Gen. Walter Krueger, established his headquarters in the historic city of Kyoto. On January 26, 1946, the U.S. Army officially inactivated the Sixth Army in Japan.

When the Pentagon reactivated the Sixth Army at the Presidio of San Francisco on March 1, 1946, Brig. Gen. Frank D. Merrill took temporary command. Not until a week later did General Stilwell assume command and Merrill reverted to his position as chief of staff, while Maj. Gen. George P. Hays became Stilwell's deputy commander.¹

The Sixth U.S. Army was one of six armies in the continental United States. All ground, and until January 1947 all air, installations in eight western states – Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona – came under its administration. Its principal missions included command and support of all assigned or attached units, activities, and installations; training, equipping, and combat readiness of assigned combat forces; conducting field exercises, command post exercises,

1. In World War II General Hays organized the 10th Infantry Division that trained as ski infantrymen at Camp Hale in the Colorado Rockies. Hays commanded the redesignated Mountain 10th Division in the difficult fighting in Italy's mountains. Promoted to lieutenant general in 1952, he retired in 1953. Frank Dow Merrill enlisted in the Army in 1922. After three years service in Panama he entered West Point. Graduating in 1929 he accepted a commission in the Cavalry. Merrill was assigned to Tokyo, in 1938. On December 7, 1941, Major Merrill was on a mission to Burma where, because of the attack on Pearl Harbor, he remained as a member of Stilwell's staff. In 1944 a United States-Chinese offensive began the reconquest of Burma. Brigadier General Merrill organized a reinforced regiment of U.S. soldiers that became known as Merrill's Marauders. He trained the men in jungle warfare techniques. The Marauders cut Japanese supply lines, defeated enemy forces, and made their way over seemingly impassable terrain to capture an important airfield. The regiment was disbanded later in 1944. Following a spell of ill health, General Merrill served as chief of staff, Tenth Army, during the battle for Okinawa. He retired in 1948 and died in Florida in 1955, aged fifty-two. By October 1946 no fewer than ten brigadier generals were assigned to Headquarters, Sixth U.S. Army. *Webster's Military Biographies*; PSF, "Post Diary, 1946-1953;" Army Almanac, pp. 79, 330, 657, and 714.

and troop tests; assistance to civilian agencies in time of disaster; and command and support of the Army Reserve and the ROTC, and support of the National Guard.²

Among the units attached to Headquarters, Special Troops, at the Presidio in 1946 were: Headquarters Company; Post Operating Company; 11th Transportation Corps Car Company; 54th AGF Band; 63d Military Police Platoon; 115th and 306th Counter-intelligence Corps detachments; 199th Photo Interpretive Team; 13th Signal Operating Company, and a WAC detachment. By the time the entire staff had assembled Sixth U.S. Army headquarters' offices occupied all three of the largest barracks buildings – 35, 38, and 39 – at the main post.³

The School for Bakers and Cooks continued to instruct in the culinary arts. In May 1946 it was renamed the Quartermaster Food Service School and responsibility for it transferred from the Ninth Service Command to the Quartermaster General. Its curriculum had increased to eleven subjects including mess management, meat cutting, and special baking.⁴

In July 1946 General Stilwell traveled to Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands to observe the effect of two atomic bomb tests. When he returned to San Francisco in August his wife noticed a change in his appearance, "he appeared shrunk and unwell and complained of a lack of energy." At the end of September he entered Letterman General Hospital where he was operated on for stomach cancer. A few days later the Army awarded him the Combat Infantry Badge, an award he had long wanted. He did not learn about the award for he died on October 12, aged sixty-three. A public funeral was not held; the ashes were scattered over the Pacific Ocean.⁵

General Hays succeeded Stilwell as the acting commander of Sixth U.S. Army and served as such until

2. The armies: First U.S. Army, headquarters, Governors Island, New York City; Second U.S. Army, headquarters, Fort George C. Meade, Maryland; Third U.S. Army, headquarters, Fort McPherson, Georgia; Fourth U.S. Army, headquarters, Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Fifth U.S. Army, headquarters, Chicago, Illinois; Sixth U.S. Army at the Presidio of San Francisco. *Army Almanac*, pp. 76-77. The armies were not designated *United States Armies* until January 1, 1957.

3. "Post Diary, 1946-1953;" Stewart and Erwin, p. 69.

4. L.R. Wolfe, May 29, 1946, to Commandant, Bakers and Cooks School, GCGF 1946, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

5. Tuchman, *Stilwell*, p. 528.

June 1947 when he transferred to Germany. In 1945 the Presidio had hosted a reception for officers attending the meeting of the United Nations. Now, in November 1946, a United Nations committee inspected the Presidio as a possible site for the UN headquarters. Dr. Eduardo Zuleta Angel of Columbia chaired the committee. He announced that the Presidio was his first choice but that Boston and New York remained in the running. President Harry S Truman was agreeable to making the Presidio available. The Soviet Union, however, opposed the selection of San Francisco or any West Coast site and, when John D. Rockefeller offered \$8.5 million worth of land in Manhattan, the United Nations chose New York City. Some local forces in San Francisco also did not favor a UN headquarters on the reservation, rather the Presidio should be given over to civilian housing because of the severe housing shortage in post-war San Francisco. For a time the federal government considered this possibility. Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson studied releasing part of the Presidio for housing but concluded that it was still one of the Army's most important bases.

Shortly thereafter Sixth U.S. Army announced plans for the Presidio calling for a new Letterman General Hospital, a Veterans Administration hospital, military housing, and administrative offices for all military units then at San Francisco. Additional military housing was the first of these to become a reality. In 1947 work began at the Presidio with the construction of twenty-three duplexes for officers' families. Located on Presidio Hill above Infantry Terrace the quarters (401 through 434), centered on Washington Boulevard, reached completion in 1948. Other construction in the early postwar years included a small guest house (516) to the rear of the commanding general's quarters, 1, a tennis court (582) in the former East Cantonment area (and near an earlier cantonment court), a sewage pump house (645) in the former Crissy Field area, and a concrete flammable storage structure (990) adjacent to the mine wharf. The Sixth U.S. Army also found room in an unidentified building at the main post (then 89) for a children's nursery in 1947.⁶

In September 1947 barracks building 650 at former Crissy Field was officially designated Stilwell Hall; it now contained a Reserve officers' club. On September 22 a reception was held in the club's lounge. About that time, "a beautiful but appropriately simple bas-relief plaque, designed by Haig Patigian, one

6. Richards, *Historic San Francisco*, p. 291; U.S. Army, *Content Analysis of News Clippings Pertaining to Presidio Lands, April 1870 to January 1966, Master Plans, PSF*. In 1945 the *San Francisco Call-Bulletin* wrote that 485 acres of Presidio land should be sold for housing. See also *Fortnight*, "\$1 Housing Project?" December 30, 1946.

of the world's best known sculptors," was unveiled.⁷

Social activities, including visits by foreigners, marked the days. In December 1946 the Army gave a salute and an escort for General Olino of Brazil. Early in 1947 a luncheon at the officers' club welcomed Prince Saud Al Saud of Saudi Arabia. A month later honors were extended to Maj. Gen. J. L. Huang of the Chinese Embassy. Before the year was out the Presidio entertained the vice president of the Philippines and general officers of the Turkish army. On one occasion the Sixth U.S. Army's judge advocate hosted thirty-five judge advocate officers from other bases in the Bay Area at the officers' club. The club also held meetings of the Presidio Women's Club where on May 1, 1947, members listened to a reading of actress Ruth Gordon's "Years Ago." Perhaps the most interesting event in 1947 was the centennial observation of the arrival of American troops at San Francisco held on March 11. The Presidio celebrated with an open house, displays, entertainment, and a retreat parade.⁸

General Hays turned over command of the Sixth U.S. Army to Gen. Mark Clark in June 1947. Hays met Clark at one of the Presidio's gates (Lombard Street?) and escorted him to the parade ground where cannon boomed a seventeen-gun salute. Several thousand military and civilian spectators witnessed the ceremony. Following a review of the troops and a formal retreat ceremony, Clark held a press conference. That evening the officers' club was the scene of a reception for the famed World War II leader.⁹

During his two years at the Presidio, General Clark paid close attention to the welfare of enlisted men and

7. NPS, National Register of Historic Places, PSF; PSF, press release, September 18, 1947, PAM; Stewart and Erwin, p. 75; *Army and Navy Journal*, September 27 and November 22, 1947.

8. "Post Diary, 1946-1953;" *Army and Navy Journal*, May 17, 1947

9. *Army and Navy Journal*, July 5, 1947. Mark Wayne Clark born at Madison Barracks, New York, the son of an army officer, graduated from West Point in 1917 and served in France in World War I. Stationed at several posts and attending army schools in the 1920s and 1930s, he worked on the expansion of the army in the early 1940s, becoming a brigadier general in 1941. A major general in 1942 he commanded U.S. ground forces in Great Britain. He carried out a secret and dangerous mission to gather information on Vichy (French) forces in North Africa prior to Allied landings there. He commanded the Fifth Army in Morocco. Next, his forces landed at Salerno, Italy, in 1943. He led the Fifteenth Army Group in Italy, advancing into Austria. Serving as the Allied high commissioner for Austria 1945-1947, he then commanded Sixth U.S. Army at the Presidio of San Francisco. Later he commanded the United Nations forces in Korea, 1952-1953. General Clark retired in 1954 and died in 1985, aged eighty-nine years. Dupuy, et al, *Harper Encyclopedia*.

their families. Besides establishing a nursery for infant children, he took a great interest in the construction of a first-class service club for the enlisted men and women of the lowest ranks on the post. General Stilwell had conceived of such a club but had not lived long enough to see it realized. General Clark dedicated the large, modern club (135) on July 14, 1949. A site for it near the post chapel had been cleared of eucalyptus trees and the Army's Welfare Fund (non-appropriated) made a grant for the construction, which amounted to \$350,000. The reinforced concrete, U-shaped building had overall measurements of 100 feet by 180 feet. The Spanish Colonial Revival architecture of the exterior harmonized with the nearby post chapel, but the interior was finished in a contemporary manner. The main lounge had maple flooring and three large plate glass windows in steel frames faced the bay. Other facilities included a recreation room, dance floor, cafeteria, kitchen, snack bar, pool, billiards, library, games room, and bowling alleys.

Plans called for a memorial fountain in the forecourt to be paid for by soldiers in memory of their comrades killed in World War II. This feature, however, was not constructed but a small D-Day memorial was placed there on the fortieth anniversary of the Normandy invasion in France. Cpl. Lou J. Cameron did paint a mural depicting the original settlement of the Presidio above the fireplace.¹⁰

This building, designed for the welfare of privates, had a future far different than the original intent. A year after the service club's dedication, war broke out on the Korean peninsula (1950-1953). When Communist Chinese forces entered the war, President Truman determined to arrange a treaty of peace with Japan and to establish a security system in the Pacific similar to NATO in Europe. On August 30, 1951, the United States and the Philippines concluded a Mutual Defense Treaty. Two days later, meeting in the still-new service club, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand signed a Tripartite Security Treaty. A week later, September 8, forty-nine nations attending a peace conference in San Francisco's War Memorial Opera House, signed a "peace of reconciliation" with Japan. And on that same day, United States and Japanese delegates, also meeting at the Presidio's service club, signed a joint security pact, in effect an alliance between the two nations that had so recently been enemies.

The service club had further associations with the Korean War. High-ranking officers of the Chinese National Army from Taiwan held a press interview in the service club in February 1953. Between August

10. File: Presidio Service Club (History), PAM; File : NCO Mess and Service Club Buildings 69 and 135, Master Plans, PSF.

23 and September 23, 1953, eight army transports bearing former American prisoners of war from North Korea docked at the Fort Mason piers. Those men whose families were unable to meet them were brought to the service club to relax and enjoy refreshments. All were given free long-distance calls, and members of the press interviewed the freed men.¹¹

Among the former prisoners of war was Maj. Gen. William F. Dean, a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, who had commanded the 24th Infantry Division in Korea when North Koreans captured him in July 1950. The United States, not knowing if he was alive or dead, awarded him the Medal of Honor in September 1950. Tortured and isolated by his captors, Dean held out until he was liberated in September 1953 and returned to the United States a hero. From 1954 to his retirement in 1955 he served as the deputy commander, Sixth U.S. Army, Presidio of San Francisco. In retirement he lived at Berkeley, California.¹²

By 1964 noncommissioned officers assigned to the Presidio outnumbered the privates. These NCOs then had their main club (open mess) in the old YMCA building, 69, that had first served as a serviceman's club at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in 1915. After the fair it was moved to the main post at a site across Lincoln Boulevard from Letterman hospital. After the YMCA left the Presidio, Letterman had used the building for a patient program. In 1922 the Army added a small swimming pool. About 1958 the building became the NCO's open mess.

Because of the numerical disparity between the noncommissioned officers and the privates, the Sixth U.S. Army decided to move the noncommissioned officers to the handsome service club, 135, and the privates to building 69. A United Volunteer Services worker, Marilyn L. Hunt, who had long been associated with the service club, felt aggrieved and encouraged privates to write protest letters to public officials including President Lyndon B. Johnson. The Army took disciplinary action and the issue ended. To compensate the privates for their loss, Sixth U.S. Army had building 69 refurbished and redecorated.

11. Arthur S. Link, *American Epoch, A History of the United States Since the 1890s* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1958), p. 693; PSF, "Post Diary, 1946-1953;" NCO Mess and Service Club, Master Plans, PSF. The U.S. Secretary of State Dean G. Acheson led the American delegation at the service club. It is likely that preliminary or planning meetings concerning the peace treaty with Japan also occurred at the service club. Maj. Gen. Milton B. Halsey, Sixth U.S. Army's deputy commander at the time, arranged for his son, now Col. Milton B. Halsey, Jr., attending the Citadel at that time, to be an observer for some of those meetings.

12. *Webster's Military Biographies*.

On December 17, 1964, the Army held a grand opening for "Presidio Service Club No. 1," with Lt. Gen. Frederic J. Brown presiding over the opening ceremony. This service club, however, had a brief existence being demolished to make room for a new gymnasium, 63, that was completed in 1971 at a cost of \$708,000. The privates then found themselves relaxing in the old log and stone building, 1299, at Fort Winfield Scott.¹³

The Army's continuing housing shortage nation-wide received some relief in 1948 when the U.S. Congress passed the Wherry Act sponsored by U.S. Senator Kenneth S. Wherry (R) Nebraska. Under its provisions private enterprise could build and operate rental housing units on or adjacent to military installations. The Federal Housing Agency (FHA) loaned the construction funds to those private companies held to be responsible firms. By late 1951 the Corps of Engineers' San Francisco District Engineer, working with the FHA, had authorized the construction of nearly 1,800 housing units (500 units or apartments at the Presidio of San Francisco) at military installations in California.

At San Francisco Angus McSweeney became the architect for the Presidio's Wherry housing and the George Bauer Construction Company of Portland, Oregon, won the building contract. The *San Francisco Examiner* announced in January 1952 that the federal government was leasing thirty-eight acres of land in the southwestern portion of the reservation to the Bauer firm for a term of seventy-five years. The selection of this site meant the removal of a portion of the Presidio forest. When civilian neighbors objected to use of the site because the project would become an eyesore, they received assurances that a screen of trees would remain. Completed in 1953 the 500 housing units were quickly occupied, each apartment having two or three bedrooms. Majors were allocated 776 square feet of space; company grade officers (captains and lieutenants), 707 square feet; and noncommissioned officers, 700 square feet. Of the 500 units, personnel from the Presidio occupied 259 of them; the U.S. Army Transportation Terminal Command (Fort Mason), 30 units; Letterman General Hospital, 78; and the U.S. Navy, 133. The *Star Presidian* announced in 1958 that soldiers going overseas whose families were in the Wherry project

13. File: NCO Mess and Service Club Buildings, PAM; *Star Presidian*, November 20 and December 11 and 18, 1964; *San Francisco Examiner*, October 3, 1964 and May 18, 1966; *San Francisco Chronicle*, October 2, 1964; Voucher File 1971, Master Plans, PSF. Affairs did not go well for the privates at the Fort Winfield Scott building. In August 1965 a young woman was found murdered near the building. Still unsolved a year later, this incident led to the Army's decision to move the service club back to building 135, to the Tiki Room in the basement. The main floor of the "NCO Open Mess" was off-limits to the privates who if they were 18-1/2 years old and could drink 3.2 beer.

could be assured that their dependents would remain there until the soldiers returned.

At the same time the post newspaper announced that because of the forthcoming "Capehart" housing project, sponsored by U.S. Senator Homer Capehart (R) Indiana, the armed services were required to absorb the Wherry projects as government housing at those installations where Capehart units were approved. In 1963, in anticipation of additional housing, the *Star Presidian* said that the Presidio then had a population of 4,542 military personnel of whom 2,065 were married and had their families. The Presidio then had only 1,209 adequate housing units, while the Army leased 100 private dwellings in the city and another 34 in Marin County.

The Presidio considered the Wherry housing to be below army standards and recommended as early as 1959 that the federal government not acquire it. If such were to happen the Army would have to raise the soldiers' rent. Again in 1961 the Presidio drew up a long list of the buildings inadequacies: too crowded, rehabilitation too expensive, lack of necessary funds, the light frame construction, bedrooms and storage areas too small, kitchens crowded, electrical wiring inadequate, utilities undersized, and they lacked sound proofing.

When the Presidio's commander, Col. Robert W. Clirehugh, learned that the Army would acquire the Wherry housing, he recommended that only enlisted men occupy it. The *San Francisco Chronicle* announced on September 4, 1963, that the Army had purchased the 500 units of the "Bakers Beach Apartments" for \$4.8 million. The president of the apartments corporation, George P. Leonard, received \$1.3 million and the federal government assumed the mortgages, \$3.5 million. The Army said it would modernize the apartments. The City of San Francisco regretted that it would lose the \$45,000 that it collected annually in taxes. The *Star Presidian* confirmed that enlisted men occupied the entire project – 367 army units, 133 navy units. The Presidio continued to experience a shortage of adequate quarters for both commissioned and noncommissioned officers. Even before the Army acquired the Wherry project, the Presidio requested 300 homes be constructed under the provisions of the Capehart Act.¹⁴

14. Joseph J. Hagwood, *Engineers at the Golden Gate, A History of the San Francisco District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1866-1980* (1982), pp. 262 and 268; *San Francisco Examiner*, January 22, 1952; *Star Presidian*, May 9, 1958, August 2 and 16, and November 1, 1963; File: Wherry Housing, Master Plans, PSF; Sixth Army, "Information Concerning the Presidio of San Francisco," June 20, 1957. Under the Capehart Act a revolving fund was established to insure mortgages on family housing constructed for military families. A major difference from the Wherry Act was that the Army assumed ownership upon completion. The Wherry housing and its carpports received building numbers between 1500 and 1598.

Other construction in the late 1940s and the 1950s included a multitude of projects. At the main post: thirteen carports for the Civil War officers' quarters on Funston Avenue (17-29), in 1951; transformer (30), in 1958; bus stop shelter (66), in 1959; emergency generator (68), in 1955; transformer (114), in 1959; sewage pump house (205), in 1952; gas service station (231), in 1947; wash rack (267), in 1951; heavy equipment shed (268), in 1951; carpenter shop/storage shed (286), in 1950; insect and rodent control facility (287), in 1946; transformer vault (289), in 1952; and seven structures for flammable material (292-298), in 1951. In the Infantry Terrace and Golf Course areas: golf shop (300), in 1956; golf shelter (317), in 1959; non-potable water pump houses (318 and 319), in 1959; water reservoirs (322 and 323), in 1956 and 1958; pump house (324), in 1956; starter house (346), in 1959; administration building (347), in 1960; pump house (348), in 1959; exchange store (385), in 1958. In the Lower Presidio/Crissy Field area: gas station (637), in 1957; oil storage (638), in 1959; unit motor pool (644), in 1951; radio shelter/navigation aids building (646), in 1957; transformer (648), in 1950; railroad end and side loading ramp (656), in 1952; terminal equipment hut (675), in 1952; wind direction indicator (676), in 1950; and water valve house (659), in 1959.

In the southeast portion of the reservation: baseball/football field dugouts (764 and 766), in 1959; Paul R. Goode athletic field (768), in 1957; latrine (769), in 1959; sprinkler control (773), 1954; three apartment houses for NCOs (765 and 767), in 1950, and (770), in 1959; scorer's booth and locker room (804), in 1957; and refreshment stand (805), in 1957. At the west end of Crissy Field: engineer field maintenance shops (924), in 1959; transformer enclosure (925), in 1959; sewage ejector building (940), in 1952; and gasoline pump (975), in 1957. At Fort Winfield Scott: cold storage warehouse (1296), in 1952; two paint storage (1370 and 1371), in 1959; and flammable storage (1373), in 1959. And in the southwestern corner of the reservation and the Marine Hospital area: water pump house (1772), in 1948; sewage pump house (1794), in 1953; flagstaff (1800), in 1952; recreation bunker (1803), ca. 1950s; and tennis court (1830), in 1950s.¹⁵

Other items concerning the Presidio's physical plant during the 1950s included the structure (215) originally built in 1951 as a bus stop on Lincoln Boulevard, north of the main parade. The one story, wood frame, stucco building exhibiting Spanish Colonial architecture had many lives. By 1980 it housed

15. NPS, Presidio, National Register of Historic Places, Registration Forms.

a bicycle rental shop that also made repairs and sales as a post exchange activity. By 1991 the building contained a bank teller machine and a travel agency.¹⁶

Through the years the Presidio's neighbors, ever alert to changes over the wall that met with their disapproval, always were ready to complain. In 1952 came the issue of a new three-block-long wire mesh fence being constructed atop the masonry boundary wall on Lyon Street. People on the city side of the wall, an area early known as Cow Hollow, objected strenuously to this intrusion calling it an unwarranted eyesore. The city newspapers publicized the issue and San Francisco Mayor Elmer Robinson sided with the citizens. Lt. Gen. Joseph M. Swing, however, defended the new fence pointing out that the Presidio was as important tactically as it ever was, that new weapons of great power were being installed (Nike missiles), and that recently acts of arson and forced entry had been made on sensitive Presidio sites. Mayor Robinson backed down and the fence remained. It was left to the *San Francisco Examiner* to suggest that the fence protected the residences of General Swing and a few other officers.¹⁷

That same year the old post chapel from the Civil War era (45), now the Catholic "Chapel of Our Lady," was enlarged with a new wing and generally renovated. The area between it and the officers' club became a "typical" California mission garden and a bronze plaque was placed under a wooden cross. In September the chapel was rededicated at a mass that commemorated the 176th anniversary of that first mass at the Presidio, in 1776.¹⁸

Over the years the Presidio post headquarters had occupied a variety of buildings on the reservation, often its several offices being separated. In 1954 the *Star Presidian* reported that, finally, the key elements of post headquarters had come together under one roof – the former barracks and school for

16. File: Building 215, PSF, Master Plans, PSF.

17. *San Francisco Call-Bulletin*, January 18, 1952; *San Francisco Examiner*, January 18 and 21, 1952; *San Francisco Examiner*, January 23, 1952. Lt. Gen. Joseph May Swing, born in 1894, graduated from West Point and was commissioned in the field artillery in 1915. He served on the Punitive Expedition in Mexico, 1916, and in France during World War I. In the 1920s and 1930s Swing served at various posts and attended army schools. He was promoted to major general in 1943 and he activated the 11th Airborne Division. In 1944 General Swing led the 11th Airborne in battle in New Guinea and in the Philippines. On August 30, 1945, he led the first air-transported troops to Atsugi airfield, outside Tokyo. Lieutenant General Swing commanded the Sixth U.S. Army at the Presidio of San Francisco, 1951-1954. Data from the U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

18. Files: "Chapels" and "The Chapel of Our Lady," PAM; Milton B. Halsey, Jr., "Point Paper, The Presidio Chapels," (ca. 1990).

bakers and cooks (220).¹⁹

The post newspaper also described other Presidio operations in the 1950s. The telephone exchange in building 67 had eight operators who handled an average of 8,000 calls daily. The "unique" Auto-Electric switchboard had 2,678 working lines, not counting extensions, that connected the Presidio, Sixth U.S. Army, Letterman, California Military District and Forts Scott, Funston, Baker, Barry, and Cronkhite. The underwater cable to Marin County had a three-inch diameter and there was 865,380 feet of underground cable. The coast-to-coast dialing system provided immediate contact with the Pentagon. Also, the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company presented the Presidio with a telephone bill of \$10,000 each month. Besides the telephone exchange, the Sixth U.S. Army's communications center in building 35 operated around the clock. Manned by twenty-five military and 143 civilian employees it processed 18,000 messages a day sending and receiving on army teletype equipment as well as commercial Western Union and teletypewriter exchange (TWX) facilities.

In 1942 the Presidio acquired a transmitter building and its Radio Station WVY, building 310. By 1955 this concrete structure was associated with the Army and Navy Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS). The primary purpose of MARS was to train the military so that in an emergency a communications system could be set up with civilian counterparts. The Sixth U.S. Army area of MARS had expanded to more than 700 members by 1955 who operated thirty-eight radio nets in the eight western states. The Sixth U.S. Army station AGUSA could communicate to all parts of the world where MARS stations were located. AGUSA operated out of its "studio" in the penthouse on top of headquarters building 35.²⁰

Other structural changes in the 1950s included the departure of the YMCA from the Presidio in 1954. Ever since the 1915 exposition it had managed, in association with Letterman, building 69 across from the general hospital in the building that had served as an enlisted club during the exposition. Now the YMCA departed from most army posts. The Red Cross associated with Letterman took over the upper floor of the building, and the Presidio, the lower floor including the swimming pool in an ell.

19. *Star Presidian* May 28, 1954. The same issue announced that Civilian Personnel and Sixth U.S. Army Provost Marshal section now occupied the former light artillery barracks (36).

20. *Star Presidian*, November 12, 1954 and January 14 and 21, and May 21, 1955.

The old post hospital building (2) that had begun life as the Wright General Hospital during the Civil War served as the Presidio's post dispensary in the 1950s. In 1955 the building was thoroughly refurbished: walls painted a warm green, dark green asphalt tile on the floors, venetian shades on the windows, and fluorescent light fixtures. The World War II barracks (3) next door was remodeled to accommodate the Eye Ear Nose and Throat Clinic and the physical examination section complete with X-ray equipment.

Earlier, in 1950, the Presidio constructed buildings to house an Army Reserve Center (644 and 649) at former Crissy Field. At that time new reserve centers were named for enlisted men rather than officers. In this case the two buildings were named "Harmon Hall USAR Center" in honor of Sgt. Roy W. Harmon, killed in action in Italy in 1944. Harmon, assigned to the 91st Infantry Division, was a native Californian. In July enemy machine gun fire near Casaglia stopped the advance of his company. Ordered to neutralize the enemy fire, Harmon led his squad forward. When it became pinned down, he alone mounted an assault, destroying three enemy machine guns in quick succession. Although wounded twice, Harmon destroyed the third gun just as he fell dead. The U.S. Congress awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously.²¹

The war in Korea, 1950-1953, increased Sixth U.S. Army's responsibilities many fold. On the eve of war the U.S. Army's strength stood at less than 600,000; by 1953 it had increased to 1.5 million. During the three years the headquarters at the Presidio continued its responsibilities in training combat and support troops. San Francisco and Seattle ports dispatched and received an endless stream of troop transports and freighters carrying personnel and supplies. The 2nd Infantry Division, the first to depart from the United States, shipped from Fort Lewis, Washington. California's 40th Infantry Division (National Guard) was close behind. The Presidio also provided support to the Letterman hospital as it treated the wounded and sick arriving by hospital ship.

On April 17, 1951, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, having been relieved from his command of United Nations troops in Korea by President Truman, arrived at San Francisco from Japan. The Presidio's 30th Engineers Group provided an honor guard and the 701st Military Police Battalion assisted civilian authorities in

21. *Star Presidian* July 23, 1954 and April 1, 1955; U.S. Senate, 90th Cong., 2d sess., *Medal of Honor, 1863-1968, "In the Name of the Congress of the United States"* (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1968), pp. 574-575.

managing the throngs who greeted the general. In April 1952 the world-trotting Bob Hope presented his show at Fort Winfield Scott. A month later the Presidio presented honors to Gen. Matthew B. Ridgeway who was en route from Korea to his new command in Europe. And on February 25, 1953, Presidio troops paraded in honor of Gen. James A. Van Fleet on his return from Korea and en route to retirement.

A year later, after an armistice had brought relative peace to the Korean peninsula, South Korea's President Syngman Rhee arrived at San Francisco, accompanied by Mrs. Rhee. Maj. Gen. William Dean, now Sixth U.S. Army's deputy commander, met the Rhees at the Arguello Gate and escorted them to a reviewing stand that had been erected on the old parade between buildings 39 and 40. Soldiers lined the route and a guard of honor accompanied the party. At the parade ground the massed colors of the United States, Korea, United Nations, and twenty nations who had taken part in the conflict added drama to the event. Lt. Gen. Willard G. Wyman, commanding Sixth U.S. Army, greeted the Rhees. Even then, French troops in Indochina faced the Communist Vietminh regime.²²

Periodically, ever since the 1870s, someone or other would initiate a scheme to divest the Presidio of some or all of its acreage for private development. In 1923, during the administration of President Calvin Coolidge, the Secretary of War John W. Weeks himself proposed selling a part of the reservation. On that occasion the San Francisco Board of Supervisors was against the idea. Three years later the War Department again considered selling the Presidio, this time for \$26 million. Following World War II undeveloped land on the San Francisco peninsula was rapidly disappearing. From time to time developers and public officials looked longingly at the Presidio's green acres. Throughout 1947 local newspapers debated whether the reservation should be developed for housing or preserved as a national monument. In 1948 the *San Francisco Chronicle* announced a plan to fill an additional 320 acres on the bay side of the Presidio, from Fort Point to the Yacht Club, and to construct 12,000 apartments there.

A Presidio officer, Lt. Col. R.M. Johnson, prepared a memorandum in 1950 concerning "certain cliques and pressure groups" in San Francisco who continued to press for private development. He argued that the Army counter by stressing the Presidio's historic and scenic values. Among his long list of recommendations were the erection of markers, parking lots at scenic points, marking an auto route,

22. Matloff, ed. *American Military History*, pp. 540 and 581; Booklet, Unofficial Guide, Presidio of San Francisco (1975), Master Plans, PSF; "Post Diary, 1946-1953;" *Star Presidian*, August 6 and 13, 1954.

cleaning up Baker Beach, guide books, and having old Fort Point declared a national monument similar to the one at Fort Rosecrans (Cabrillo National Monument) at San Diego.

Back in 1947 President Truman appointed the Hoover Commission to make recommendations on executive reorganization in the federal government. In May 1955 the San Francisco Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on the matter of Presidio land saying that it was city policy to request the federal government to release surplus lands at the Presidio and Fort Mason "as recommended by the Hoover Commission." A San Francisco lobbyist, Marvin Lewis, wanted the San Francisco National Cemetery moved from the Presidio. The president of the San Francisco Labor Council, Jack Goldberger, favored the building of private homes on the reservation. Valentine King from the Assessor's Office demanded that the Army specify the land necessary for national defense and that the remainder be released. Richard E. Doyle, executive vice president of the Associated Homebuilders of San Francisco, said that the people of San Francisco should be able to build their homes and the Presidio was the only open land left.

Favoring the Army's position to retain the reservation for military purposes were such organizations as the Sierra Club, Garden Club, Marina Protective Association, and the Civic Improvement Association. Robert Lilienthal, president of the Presidio Society, rose to say that the Hoover Commission had never approved any recommendations with regard to the Presidio.²³

Maj. Earle K. Stewart, the post historian, proposed that the Presidio produce a history of the reservation and the other military installations in the Bay Area from the Spanish period to the "New Presidio" of 1955. Col. C.E. Lundquist, deputy post commander, advised Sixth U.S. Army to show how much money the Presidio poured into the San Francisco economy annually and how much it would cost taxpayers to move the Sixth U.S. Army. He added somewhat mysteriously, "when the present project of uncovering old casemates for use of underground shelters is completed, this station will have facilities to protect installations against thermonuclear attack without parallel in the United States."²⁴

23. Lt. Col. R.M. Johnson, April 11, 1950, to Chief of Staff; Col. A.C. Timbore, ca. 1955, memorandum for the record, both in "Presidio Land," PAM; *San Francisco Chronicle*, December 5, 1948; *Call-Bulletin*, October 1953.

24. Earle K. Stewart, May 17, 1955, to C.E. Lundquist; Lundquist, April 14, 1955, to CG, Sixth Army. The 1949 manuscript history by Earle K. Stewart and Kenneth S. Erwin on the *Star Presidian* staff, that has been cited throughout this study was prepared as the result of the above events.

The Presidio's heavy guns continued to fire. In 1957 Sixth U.S. Army's commander, Lt. Gen. Robert N. Young, wrote the Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker listing reasons why the Army should stay at the Presidio: Nike battery, National Guard anti-aircraft unit on site, headquarters for two anti-aircraft artillery battalions, the Presidio's support for all Nike operations in the Bay Area, headquarters Sixth U.S. Army, communications facilities, and the fact that nineteen Reserve units trained there. A four-page unsigned statement, "Information Concerning The Presidio of San Francisco" appeared in 1958 saying that conveying all or part of the Presidio to the City and County of San Francisco was "unsound for functional, economic, and civic reasons." If Sixth U.S. Army moved, San Francisco would be the loser.²⁵

The Army had convinced most San Franciscans that the Presidio was an important military installation by 1961. A press release pointed out that the presence of Sixth U.S. Army headquarters and other army activities poured \$380 million into the Bay Area yearly. Also, 40,000 retired army personnel contributed \$14 million. A citizen wrote Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, "The Presidio is to the West what Fort Ethan Allen and Yorktown are to the East, the Alamo to the Southwest, and Mount Vernon to the Nation."²⁶

Through the decade an array of distinguished personalities paraded across the Presidio stage. In 1948 Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, the World War II commander of all land, sea, and air forces in the Pacific Ocean Area, visited. A year later India's Madame Nehru Pandit placed a wreath on the tomb of the unknown soldier at the national cemetery. An honor guard turned out for a group of Turkish general officers in 1947, and again in 1948 for Vice Adm. Sir William Tennant, HMS *Sheffield*, Royal Navy. Gen. Albert Wedemeyer accompanied Secretary of the Army Kenneth C. Royall on a visit in February 1949 (honor guard and a 19-gun salute). A few months later Wedemeyer succeeded General Clark as the Sixth U.S. Army commander. Gen. Omar N. Bradley, the first chairman of the permanent Joint Chiefs of Staff, visited the historic officers' club in 1950. Shortly after the outbreak of the Korean War the Presidio hosted the eight state governors from the Sixth U.S. Army's area of responsibility. In January 1952 ceremonies were held in honor of the visit of French cruiser *Jeanne d'Arc*. That September another

25. R.N. Young, January 4, 1957, to W.M. Brucker, PSF Lands, RG 338, NA, Pacific Sierra Region; "Information Concerning the Presidio of San Francisco," May 6, 1958, source lost.

26. Headquarters, Sixth U.S. Army, press release, July 2, 1961; W. Keese, October 3, 1961, to McNamara, PSF Lands, RG 338, NA - Pacific Sierra Region.

secretary of the army, Frank Pace, made a four-day visit to the reservation.²⁷

The headquarters post, in addition to receiving dignitaries and leaders from around the world, experienced the accomplishments and occasional disappointments that the daily routines brought. Fire remained an ever-present danger. In 1947 fire slightly damaged the Chapel of Our Lady (945). The next year a post exchange warehouse burned to the ground. Reminiscent of the 1915 Pershing fire, the quarters of Capt. Ellus Burns (1290B) at Fort Winfield Scott was hit with a disastrous fire in 1951. Mrs. Burns and her oldest child suffered burns and were hospitalized at Letterman. The two younger children succumbed to the flames. The Burns' neighbor, Capt. Loren Pace, suffered superficial burns in rescuing the survivors.

On July 4, 1947, a large crowd of soldiers and citizens gathered at the Presidio to witness a fireworks display at Crissy Field. In 1952 an estimated 70,000 people arriving in 22,000 autos watched the July 4 fireworks. That fall the Presidio's flags flew at half-staff and guns boomed a 21-gun salute as SS *Honda Knot* entered San Francisco harbor bearing bodies from Pacific battlefields. On December 16, 1947, the army band serenaded General Clark's mother on her birthday. Col. Charles D'Orsa left the Presidio in February 1949 for Nevada to coordinate disaster relief operations in areas buried in snow.²⁸ In 1949 the Presidio became the supporter of yet another school, this time for the Military Police. On July 1, 1949, a new weekly newspaper, *The Presidian* began publication. Later called *Star Presidian* the paper continued publication as late as 1995. In days past only officers could play on the Presidio golf course. But, in August 1951, Pvt. Bill Rowe, 701st Military Police Battalion, won the Presidio golf tournament. And on September 12, a dedication ceremony was held for the new 105-foot flagstaff erected on the site of the Pershing house fire, Pershing Square.

27. PSF, "Post Diary, 1946-1953." Albert Cody Wedemeyer graduated from West Point in 1919 and was commissioned in the Infantry. Following tours in the Philippines and China and attending a military academy in Germany, he was assigned to the General Staff in Washington in 1940. Promoted to major general in 1943 he served under Adm. Lord Louis Mountbatten in Southeast Asia. Following the recall of General Stilwell, Wedemeyer became commander of the China theater and chief of staff to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, 1944. After the war he returned to China on a fact-finding mission. The U.S. Department of State suppressed his report that predicted Communism would triumph in China. He commanded the Sixth U.S. Army at the Presidio until his retirement in November 1948. Wedemeyer died in 1980 aged 94 years. Dupuy, *Harper Encyclopedia; Army and Navy Journal*, January 17, 1948.

28. A troop train bearing the writer from the East Coast to San Francisco at that time became snow bound in the Wyoming wilderness. The train exhausted its supplies of fuel and food and the soldiers huddled in their coaches until relief arrived from sunny California.

One of the more stirring happenings at the Presidio was the establishment of a twenty-man Bagpipe Band under Chief Warrant Officer Millard F. Crary in 1949. After its premiere on Armed Forces Day in 1950, the band went on to much acclaim in the States, Hawaii, and Canada. Another organization of renown, the Sixth U.S. Army Honor Guard (3 officers and 80 enlisted men) was organized in 1952. In addition to the main marching unit there was the four-man color guard. A sixteen-man drill team called the Presidians underwent six months of training to perfect its routine. The Guard's uniform was Army Dress Blue with gold shoulder knots, gold breast cord, white belts with brass buckle bearing the unit insignia, white gloves, black boots with white laces, white scarf, and chrome helmet. Designated Detachment A, 6002 ASU, it was reduced in strength in 1957 to a company headquarters and two rifle platoons.²⁹

A publicity release in 1957 set forth in detail the strengths and missions of both Sixth U.S. Army headquarters and the Presidio of San Francisco. The army headquarters consisted of 379 officers, 447 enlisted men, and 742 civilians. Many important military establishments were located in the eight states, including two infantry divisions at Forts Ord and Lewis. Camp Irwin in California was an important armored training center. Altogether eighty-six army installations with 66,000 Regular Army military personnel and 11,000 civilian employees comprised the Sixth U.S. Army area. In addition, headquarters controlled 172,000 U.S. Army Reserve personnel and supervised the training of 50,000 personnel in the National Guard and 25,000 ROTC students. Also at the Presidio, the Joint Center for the senior commanders of the three Armed Forces for the western United States met regularly to develop defense plans and for disaster relief planning.

The Presidio also housed the headquarters of the U.S. Army Military District, California (90 officers, 188 enlisted men, 182 civilians) that controlled Reserve activities for California. No fewer than twenty-one Army Reserve units in the Bay Area trained at the Presidio evenings and weekends. Eleven active army units, including the 1,000-man 30th Engineer Group (Topographical Survey) called the Presidio home. The daily work force at the Presidio in 1957 amounted to more than 6,000 military and civilian personnel.³⁰

29. M.F. Crary, October 19, 1951, to CG, Sixth Army in file "Presidio Band;" Booklet, *History of the Sixth U.S. Army Honor Band*, both in PAM; *Star Presidian*, May 18, 1958.

30. Sixth U.S. Army, "Information Concerning the Presidio of San Francisco," June 20, 1957.

Various maps and publications prepared for newcomers and visitors to the Presidio listed the locations of the different offices and sites. They noted that the early Spanish/Mexican burying ground was in the vicinity of the brick barracks 103 (as was indicated on early American maps). One map named the Wherry housing the "Presidio Park Apartments." The bachelor pilots' quarters (951) now housed WAC officers (in 1955). At the same time the Mine (Torpedo) Wharf was called the "U.S. Navy Pier." The Crissy Field headquarters building (651) housed the headquarters of the 30th Engineer Group. Fort Winfield Scott's band barracks (1214) was the meeting place of the post provost marshal's office. The *Star Presidian* staff found office space in the old cavalry barracks (87). A "cafeteria snack bar" operated in the basement of post headquarters (220). The Presidio established a "Pitch and Putt" golf course in open space between rows of NCO quarters in the 700 area. The Sixth U.S. Army Band found ample quarters in one of the brick barracks (100), and the Sixth U.S. Army library was located in a warehouse (1188) near the Palace of Fine Arts. One map warned that the entrance gates at Marina and Gorgas avenues closed at six p.m.³¹

B. The Army and the Presidio, 1960-1980

As the Headquarters of Sixth U.S. Army observed its twentieth anniversary at the Presidio in 1966, it took note of its missions and activities. Seven years later, 1973, it underwent a major reorganization that resulted in a reduction of both missions and personnel but a great increase in its geographical responsibilities.

In the 1960s the Sixth U.S. Army in the eight western states controlled thirty army installations that had 57,000 active army troops. Headquarters also controlled or supervised the training of more than a quarter million National Guard, Army Reserve, Reserve Officer Training Corps, and National Defense Cadet Corps personnel. The 4th Infantry Division (RA) at Fort Lewis, Washington, composed the major troop unit. Other important installations included the U.S. Army Infantry Training Center and U.S. Army Combat Developments Command, both at Fort Ord, and U.S. Army Armor and Desert Training Center at Fort Irwin. Camp Desert Rock in Nevada, 1951-1955, housed up to 6,000 personnel during nuclear weapons testing programs at the Nevada Test Site (NTS). The Reserve forces maintained headquarters at

31. *Star Presidian*, September 16, 1955, map of the Presidio; *Star Presidian* May 18, 1957; Booklet, *Sixth Army Headquarters, Visitors' Information Guide* (1950), PAM.

Fort Lawton, Washington (X U.S. Army Corps) and the Presidio of San Francisco (XV U.S. Army Corps). The Sixth Region (San Francisco and Los Angeles) and Seventh Region (Puget Sound) constituted the U.S. Army Air Defense Command (Nike missiles) in the Sixth U.S. Army area. Sixth Region established its headquarters at Fort Baker, then a sub-post of the Presidio of San Francisco.

In 1970 the Sixth U.S. Army outlined six operational and tactical considerations for maintaining its headquarters at the Presidio:

Extensive underground emergency facilities.
San Francisco was the focal point for strategic operations pointed at the Pacific.
Emergency operations center facilities included partial underground communications facilities exclusive of the above.
U.S. Army Air Defense Command defense sites defending the Bay Area.
The Bay Area location of other major headquarters – U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Marines, and U.S. Coast Guard.
San Francisco being the hub of transportation and communications.³²

Following the war in Vietnam, the Department of the Army, in a major reorganization, discarded the concepts of a Continental Army Command of six armies and a Combat Development Command in 1973. The new concept called for the amalgamation of all deployable (mobile) combat elements – regular, reserve, and National Guard – in the Army of the United States within U.S. Army Forces Command. U.S. Army Forces Command consisted of three armies only – First, Fifth, and Sixth – with the mission of immediate readiness for field service.

In January 1973 Headquarters, Sixth U.S. Army, announced the impact of the reorganization. It said that effective August 1 it would be relieved of all missions except that of ensuring the maximum combat readiness of the Army Reserve and National Guard in the fifteen states that now would compose the Sixth U.S. Army area. This meant that all active duty installations, such as the Presidio of San Francisco, would now be under U.S. Army Forces Command and not Sixth U.S. Army. It also meant a reduction in the size of headquarters, particularly in the number of civilian employees.³³

32. *Troop Topic*, January 25, 1963 (a history of Sixth U.S. Army); "Fact Sheet - Presidio of San Francisco," PSF Lands, RG 338, NA - Pacific Sierra; *Star Presidian*, January 25, 1963.

33. Dupuy, *Compact History*, p. 315; Headquarters, Sixth U.S. Army, FACT SHEET, January 11, 1973, PAM. The fifteen states: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, California, Arizona, Nebraska, Kansas, and New Mexico.

In 1970 the following units were assigned to the Presidio proper:

Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison
6th U.S. Army Veterinary Detachment
16th Base Post Office
163d Military Police Company
30th Military Police Battalion
Armed Forces Police Detachment
U.S. Army Support Detachment.³⁴

In 1973 Herbert A. Gale, employed at the Presidio's Directorate of Facilities Engineering, compiled a list of organizations on the military reservation and the quarters they occupied. Regarding the Sixth U.S. Army headquarters:

The headquarters itself, buildings 35, 36, 37, 38, and 39
Sixth U.S. Army Band, building 100
MARS Station, building 311
Pictorial Branch, building 603
Audio Visual Branch, building 603
Sixth U.S. Army Flight Detachment, building 639
Sixth U.S. Army Medical Laboratory, building 696 (unidentified)
Headquarters, Sixth U.S. Army Special Troops, buildings 36 and 101
Sixth U.S. Army Stock Control Center, building 651
87th Ordnance Detachment, building 233
548th Ordnance Detachment, building 223
U.S. Army Courier Station, building 222
U.S. Army Criminal Investigation (Division) Command, building 106 (San Francisco Field Office, building 1009)
U.S. Army Logistics Doctrine, Systems and Readiness Agency, building 914
U.S. Army Physical Evaluation Board, building 1016

United States Army Reserve facilities on the reservation:

Air Section, 124th ARCOM and AMSA (A) (Aircraft) 27, buildings 232 and 236
Golden Gate USAR Center, buildings 361-364 and 387
San Francisco USAR Center, buildings 649 and 916
6227th USAR School, buildings 904 and 915

34. "Fact Sheet Concerning the Presidio of San Francisco," July 1961; "Information Brochure," 1966; and "Officers Roster," June 1, 1970, all three at PAM; Unofficial Guide, Presidio of San Francisco (1975); Herbert A. Gale, "Reference History of the Presidio of San Francisco, California," 1973.

6253d U.S. Army Hospital (USAR), buildings 903, 907, 908, 911, and 916

In 1975 a guide to the Presidio of San Francisco listed a few additional organizations assigned to the Presidio:

525th Military Intelligence Group headquarters
Sixth Region, U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command
U.S. Army Sixth Recruiting District headquarters

Also on the reservation at this time were the Letterman General Hospital, the XV U.S. Army Corps headquarters, and the Air Defense personnel stationed at Fort Winfield Scott. The entire military population, including civilian employees, amounted to about 10,000 people.

In the early 1960s, probably in 1963, the Presidio prepared a booklet outlining community service facilities for newcomers and their families. From this booklet one obtains an appreciation of what the newly arrived private or lieutenant found on the famous and ancient army post:

Chapel Annex, Fort Scott, 1390, a drug seminar group meeting three mornings a week, Protestant service on Sunday (no mention of the chapel 1389 itself)

Religious Activities Center, 682 (former barracks)

Noncommissioned Officers' Open Mess, 1331 (former officers' club)

Noncommissioned Officers' Open Mess (Tiki Annex), 257 (former World War II Annex A), Lounge, bar, cocktail lounge, dining room, ballroom.

Officers' Open Mess, Fort Scott Log Cabin, 1299. Bar and cocktail lounge.

Officers' Open Mess, Letterman, 1148. Cocktail lounge and dining area (by 1975 a noncommissioned officers' club)

Presidio Service Club, 135. Main lounge, Prince room, game room, juke box room, refreshment area, television room.

Presidio Teen Club, 1021 (west of Thompson Hall)

Automobile Shop, 662 (former stable)

Multi-craft Shop 122 (former gymnasium)

Photo Lab Shop, 117 (former machine gun shed)

Post Library, 386

Indoor Small Bore Range, .22 caliber, 1369

Fort Scott Softball Fields, 1209 and 1215, and Multi-court, 1222 (latter – two basketball and two volleyball courts, all outside)

Paul Goode Baseball/Football Field, 768

Pop Hicks Little League Baseball Field, 806

Post Exchange Softball field, 368 (softball, modified football, and basketball court)

Bowling Center, 1387 (former theater)

Fort Scott gymnasium, 1226

Letterman gymnasium, 1152

Physical Fitness Room, basement of 122

Presidio Post Gymnasium, 63. Basketball, sauna, two handball courts, squash court, exercise room, dressing rooms.

El Polin Picnic Area

Fort Scott Picnic area, Rob Hill, 1474. (Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts on weekends)

Letterman Swimming Pool, 50 meters, 1151

Post Swimming Pool, basement of 69 (former YMCA building)

Infantry Terrace Tennis Courts, 384

Fort Scott Tennis Court, 1333

Nursery Tennis Court, 582 (former East Cantonment)

Parade Ground Tennis Court, 96

Post Theater, 800 seats, 99

Presidio Playhouse, 190 seats, 239

Army Community Service Volunteers' Lounge (T-200?)

Post Conference Room, in 220.³⁵

Other construction activities during the 1960s and 1970s at the Presidio included the building of the American Battle Monuments Commission's "West Coast Memorial to the Missing" at Fort Winfield Scott. A curved wall of California granite, set in a grove of Monterey pine and cypress, bore the names of 412 members of the Armed Forces who lost their lives in the offshore Pacific coastal waters during World War II. At the right of the memorial Sculptor Jean de Marco created a figure of Columbia. Architects Hervey Parke Clark and John F. Beuttler of San Francisco were the designers. At the dedication on November 29, 1960, Gen. John L. DeWitt and Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz delivered addresses.³⁶

Also in 1960 the Presidio's telephone system, building 67, acquired a new million dollar, completely mechanized exchange, and a new "100 pair plastic covered cable," installed across the Golden Gate Bridge, provided the Marin forts with direct dialing. Because of the Cold War with the Soviet Union, the Presidio identified those structures on the reservation that could serve as fallout shelters in 1962: Batteries Howe-Wagner, Marcus Miller, Godfrey, and Crosby; mine casemates, enlisted barracks at Fort Winfield Scott; old Fort Point; the basements of buildings 38 and 39 at the main post; and the vault in building 35.³⁷

In 1964 the *Star Presidian* carried an article on the Sixth U.S. Army Parachute Field Maintenance Shop, building 920, at former Crissy Field. The shop, recently enlarged, handled all parachute services to all army aviation in the Sixth U.S. Army area, including the Reserves and the National Guard. Each of the six soldiers assigned to the shop had to make one jump every month – from a repacked parachute chosen at random. The shop's motto was "Try Jumping Without Us." One change that did not occur in 1964 was the proposed closing of the historic Lombard Street entrance gate and the opening of a new entrance at Filbert Street. The construction of the new Letterman hospital had brought about this proposal. When the San Francisco City's Planning Commission opposed this change because of the historical associations

35. "Welcome, Presidio Army Community Service, Catalog of Facilities," n.d., PAM.

36. "Dedication of the West Coast Memorial to the Missing," 1960, PAM; *Star Presidian*, November 18, 1960.

37. *Star Presidian*, January 8, 1960; File: Fallout Shelters, Master Plans, PSF.

with the Lombard gate, the Army acquiesced.³⁸

Crissy Field's bachelor officers' quarters, 951, most recently had served as women officers' quarters. The Presidio's newspaper announced in 1965 that the building, now known as Scott Hall, had been converted to a guest house. Newly arrived enlisted personnel and their families could stay there for ten days while arranging for housing. The building contained sixteen two-room apartments, two bachelor suites, and seven kitchens. The newspaper noted the beautiful spiral staircases and the French doors to the elegant lounge.³⁹

The former Crissy Field barracks, Stilwell Hall 650, received a new occupant in 1967. The Biltwell Development Company, at a cost of \$101,500, completed renovating the ground floor for the Sixth U.S. Army Stock Control project. Still under construction that year were two buildings at the main post. The two story, masonry block Automatic Data Processing and Communications Center, 34, estimated to cost \$814,500 (and later called the Logistics Control Activity), had reached eighty percent completion. The new post cafeteria, 211, was only forty-four percent complete. Its estimated cost amounted to \$306,000. The Biltwell Company also completed a \$967,300 contract to upgrade the plumbing, flooring, and lighting of the recently acquired Wherry housing project.⁴⁰

The old post chapel, 45, now the Chapel of Our Lady, underwent further remodeling in the early 1970s. A 864 square-foot addition allowed the building to have a narthex, nave, baptistery, side aisles, sanctuary, Blessed Sacrament altar, sacristy, altar boy room, confessionals, choir room, and utility rooms. Also at the south end of the old parade the ancient officers' club, 50, received a large addition in 1972 at a cost of \$1.25 million. The new structure contained a banquet-ballroom with stage and other rooms. Its bulk overshadowed the original historic structure.⁴¹

The Presidio acquired a large number of new housing units between 1966 and 1970 climaxing the

38. *Star Presidian*, May 1, 1964; *San Francisco Chronicle*, September 19, 1964.

39. *Star Presidian*, January 15, 1965; PSF, Annual Historical Supplement, 1965, RG 338, NA- Pacific Sierra.

40. PSF, "Annual Historical Supplement," 1967, PAM. The new cafeteria later became a fast-food outlet, Burger King - a far cry from the traditional company mess halls.

41. Files: Catholic Chapel Addition and Officers Club Addition, Master Plans, PSF.

generations-long search for adequate lodging. In 1966 the Army erected fifteen structures, 850-864, mostly duplexes, on MacArthur Avenue and north of El Polin Spring for the families of noncommissioned officers. Three years later twelve more buildings, 808-820, were erected in the same area, along Quarry Road. Another fifteen buildings for noncommissioned officers, 772-791, varying from a single dwelling to four apartments in size, were constructed in the southeast corner of the reservation, also in 1969. Around 1970 another eleven apartment houses for NCOs were erected in the southwest corner, in the vicinity of a former Nike missile battery site.

During the same three years twenty-four duplexes for officers, (seventeen, 1401-1425, in 1966 and seven, 1431-1443, in 1969) were built in an area south of Battery McKinnon-Stotsenberg and Rob Hill. In 1970 the Army constructed another eighteen buildings – singles, duplexes, and triplexes, 1211-1284, for officers north of the main post at Fort Winfield Scott.⁴²

The post veterinary facility that had been housed in the brick stable 668 moved in 1976 to the neighboring stable 663. Before the move the brick floor in 663 was removed and a concrete floor laid. Besides the post veterinarian, who examined both government and private animals, the Area Veterinary Food Inspection Activities occupied the building. Stables 668 became the family housing furniture warehouse at this time while stables 661 housed a MARS warehouse along with facilities for boy scouts. Stables 667 also served as a warehouse.⁴³

During the 1960s and 1970s a great amount of other construction occurred at the Presidio of San Francisco:

Main Post, 1-199

Transformer 109, 1968

Storage sheds 119, 120, and 121, ca. 1970

Lower Presidio – east, 200-299

Service stations 202 and 203, 1969

Exchange service station 206, 1969

42. National Park Service, *Presidio, National Register Registration Forms*, pp. 7-208 to 7-213; Map, Presidio of San Francisco, 1975. Officers' quarters 1274 is no longer extant.

43. File: Post Veterinary Facility, Building 663, Master Plans, PSF. The document did not state the usage of the stable building 662.

Compressor building 207, 1969
Car wash 208, 1969
Transformer 209, 1968
Entomology building 269, 1971
Heating plant/Garage 278, 1961
Water tank building 281, 1969

Golf Course Area, 300-399

Storage shed 302, 1961
Maintenance/Storage 303, 1969

East Cantonment Area, 500-599

Cable TV receiver and tower 519, 1973
Switching station 568, 1969

Crissy Field – east, 600-699

Post exchange 605 and 606, 1972
Transformer enclosure 611, ca. 1970
Oil house 630, 1964
Motor pool warehouse 634, 1978
Standby generator platform 642, 1969
Flammable storage 659, 1973
Storage shed 665, 1979

Fort Winfield Scott, 1200-1399

Softball field 1215, 1960
Volleyball court 1222, 1969
electric power plant 1228, 1067
Storage shed 1232, 1967
Diesel fuel tank 1260, 1969
Fuel storage tank 1264, 1972
Public toilet 1286, 1972
Motor repair shop/351, 1969
Garden tool shed 1386, 1960
Flammable storage 1388, 1960
Chemical training facility 1397, 1974

Rob Hill, 1400-1499

Water pump station 1400, 1966
Sentry station 1472, 1973
Guard tower 1473, 1970
Waiting shelters 1496-1498, 1973

Water Plant/Reserve Center, 1700-1769

U.S. Army Reserve Center 1750, 1970
Flagstaff 1751, 1970
Maintenance shop 1752, 1970
Flammable storage 1753, 1970

Wash platform 1754, 1970
Wash platform 1754, 1970
Grease rack 1755, 1970
Transformer 1756, 1970
Sewage lift station 1774, 1965
Transformer enclosure 1775, 1960
Facility engineer 1777, 1973
Water pump house 1780, 1960
Well 1785, 1970
Well 1787, 1969
25th Avenue entrance gate 1799, 1962⁴⁴

In June 1962 the U.S. Department of the Interior designated the Presidio of San Francisco a National Historic Landmark. The following year, in February, the National Park Service's Lawrence C. Merriam, then the director of the Western Regional Office, NPS, presented a certificate and a plaque to the post commander, Col. W. S. McElhenny, in a ceremony at Pershing Square. Secretary of the Army Stephen Ailes and Lt. Gen. John L. Ryan, Jr., commanding Sixth U.S. Army, attended the ceremony. Either then or within a year the plaque was mounted at the square and two Rodman guns from the Civil War era together with cannon balls formed the centerpiece at the commemorative site.⁴⁵

The Presidio participated in the ceremonies attending the death of former President Herbert C. Hoover in October 1964. On the first day following the announcement of the death a cannon fired every half hour between 6:10 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. On October 22 a special fifteen-gun salute was fired at 8:00 a.m. at Fort Winfield Scott. On the day of the funeral, October 25, starting at reveille fifty rounds were fired at three second intervals. Then, at noon, the final twenty-one gun salute fired at one minute intervals.⁴⁶

That same month the newspaper published a description of the old post hospital 2, saying that it then served as the post dispensary. The staff had greatly increased since the Civil War – ten doctors, thirty-eight enlisted men, civilian nurses, and WACs. The facilities consisted of a dental clinic, physical examination section, immunization section, surgical dressing room for minor surgery, pediatric clinic, X-

44. National Park Service, *Presidio, National Register Registration Forms*, pp. 7-205 to 7-216.

45. Office of the Information Officer, Sixth U.S. Army, February 25, 1963, Lands PSF, RG 338, NA-Pacific Sierra; *Star Presidian*, April 10, 1964. The national historic landmark was based largely on the post's Hispanic-era heritage.

46. *Star Presidian*, October 23, 1964.

ray room, eye clinic, out-patient clinic, pharmacy, and a medical supply laboratory. In 1967, however, the dispensary and dental functions transferred to Letterman hospital. For the time being the medics continued to use the building now called the Funston Avenue Annex.⁴⁷

The Sixth U.S. Army and the Presidio of San Francisco continued all these years to contribute to the civilian community outside the gates. A survey of the *Star Presidian* for the years 1964 and 1965 showed the extent of these activities.

Danville, California, airplane crash in 1964, forty-four people killed. Presidio military police guarded the site and recovered the wreckage.

Floods in Idaho and Montana 1964. Sixth U.S. Army aircraft and helicopters aided.

"Pageant of Flags," San Francisco, 1964.

Livermore, California, Presidio Sports Parachute Team presented a Sky Diving Show, 1964

International Day 1964. Foreign students guests at the Presidio.

Floods in Northern California and the Pacific Northwest – "Operation Toothcomb;" Presidio coordinated with the American Red Cross, 1965.

The Presidio hosted Bay Area newsmen 1965

Boy Scout Week, 1965

ROTC Choral Group performed in the Bay Area, 1965.

Presidio developed a History Trail for Boy Scouts, 1965.⁴⁸

Important personages continued to visit the reservation as they had in years past. In September 1966 Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson stopped at Crissy Field following the dedication of Point Reyes National Seashore. Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall and California's governor Edmund G. Brown accompanied the First Lady. Other visitors that year included Gen. Ming-tang Lai, commander in chief, Combined Forces, Republic of China (Nationalists); Brig. Gen. Mario Ballesteros Prieto, Chief of Staff, Secretariat of National Defense of Mexico; and Gen. Mayalarp Surakis, Chief of Staff, Royal Thai Army.⁴⁹

47. *Ibid.*, October 9, 1964; PSF, Annual Historical Supplement, 1967, PAM.

48. *Star Presidian* 1964-1965.

49. PSF, Annual Historical Supplement, 1966-Notes, PAM.

An unusual event in 1967 involved two masked gunmen who robbed the Presidio post office, then as in 1995 in the former guardhouse 210. These robbers escaped with more than \$3,400.⁵⁰

As early as 1950 the United States extended military aid to French forces fighting against communist-dominated belligerents in Southeast Asia. When France withdrew from the area in 1956, the number of American advisors to the South Vietnamese government increased to 750 men. By 1963, 23,000 American personnel were involved, two-thirds of them U.S. Army troops. American combat troops arrived in 1965. By the end of 1967 the United States Army in Vietnam had suffered more than 9,000 men killed and 60,000 wounded.

The Sixth U.S. Army's 4th Infantry Division shipped from Fort Lewis, Washington, in 1966 and quickly became engaged in combat in Vietnam's central highlands. National Guard units and Army Reserves from the Sixth U.S. Army also went to Vietnam.

As early as the spring of 1964, protestors against the war organized in San Francisco and threatened to march upon the Presidio. On May 2 several hundred persons marched to the Lombard Street gate demanding entrance. Lt. Col. Henry C. Becker, the Presidio's provost marshal, met the protestors and denied their request to hold a rally on the reservation. Declaring they had made their point, the protestors quietly dispersed. A year later a small peace group sought to hold a walk and a picnic on Presidio grounds on Armed Forces Day. The post commander, Col. Robert W. Clirehugh, denied their request too. Protests against the war outside the Presidio continued. In November 1967 200 demonstrators gathered to protest the court martial of a soldier who refused to go to Vietnam.⁵¹

In 1968 the stockade building, 1213, at Fort Winfield Scott was filled to overflowing with army prisoners. In July six prisoners managed to escape. Because of the resulting rumors of the overcrowdedness and unsanitary conditions, the Army invited members of the press to inspect the facilities. In general they reported the stockade to be a drab but sanitary building. To reduce the overcrowdedness the Army planned to put the minimum security men in a separate building nearby and

50. *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 1, 1967.

51. Matloff, *American Military History*, pp. 614-638; *San Francisco Chronicle*, May 3, 1964 and May 15, 1965; PSF, Annual Historical Supplement, 1967, PAM.

surround both buildings with a fence.⁵²

On October 11, 1968, Pvt. Richard J. Bunch, prisoner, attempted to escape from a work detail and was shot and killed. The soldier guarding the detail later testified that Bunch asked to stop work for a drink of water. He said to the guard, "If you promise to shoot me, I'll run." After the drink Bunch said, "I don't think you'd really shoot," and broke into a run. The guard yelled "Halt" twice before he fired, killing the prisoner.⁵³

Three days later, twenty-seven prisoners, protesting the shooting, refused to work and commenced a sitdown. The Army confined the men warning they could be charged with mutiny and face the death penalty. San Francisco Attorney Terence Hallinan, a protestor against the war, leaped to the prisoners' defense calling the stockade a latter-day Dachau and asking for a habeas corpus hearing in an attempt to free them. Newspapers far and wide carried the story in that time of discontent, their headlines demanding attention: "Presidio Brutality Charges Taken to Court," "*Mutiny*, GIS Denied Hearing," "Lawyer Hallinan Accused. Meeting 'Plot' Charged," "The Presidio 27," "Can't Stand it Any More, Soldier Sobs."

The trials took place at Camp Irwin, California. Of the twenty-seven men three had already escaped. The courts martial found all twenty-four guilty of mutiny and they received prison sentences ranging from three months to fifteen years and either a bad conduct or dishonorable discharge. Reviews of the findings were conducted by the Sixth U.S. Army, the Department of the Army, and by a court of review. In the end the court of review threw out the offense of mutiny but sustained findings of guilty of willful disobedience of a superior commissioned officer. The longest incarceration was one soldier for one year; most received sentences of from six to eight months; in one case the charges were dismissed.⁵⁴

52. *San Francisco Examiner*, July 27, 1968.

53. *San Francisco Examiner*, February 27, 1969. The Army protected the guard's identity at the trial. Bunch, a deserter, had escaped from custody five times in 1968.

54. *Independent Journal*, November 27, 1968; *San Francisco Chronicle*, November 27, 1968; February 27 and 28 and March 1, 1969; *Oakland Tribune*, November 30, 1968 and April 16, 1969; *San Francisco Examiner*, November 27 and December 13, 1968, February 7 and 27 and April 30, 1969; *The Miami Herald*, April 27, 1969; *Salinas Californian*, April 24, 1969; *Washington Post*, April 16, 1969; Gerry Nicosia, "The Presidio 27," *Vietnam Generation, GI Resistance, Soldiers and Veterans Against the War* (1990), 2:65-78; File: Mutiny Trials, PSF, 1968-1970, PAM; Robert Sherrill, *Military Justice is to Justice as Military Music is to Music* (New York: Harper and Row, 1970).

The *New York Times* revisited the Presidio stockade story in June 1970. Building 1213 no longer housed military prisoners; the "stockade" now was composed of three small cream-colored barracks-like buildings surrounded by wire fencing. Its population had declined to an average of twenty-five. Deserters and AWOLs in the Sixth U.S. Army Area now went directly to Fort Ord. The three prisoners who had escaped were believed to be living in Canada.⁵⁵

A more positive aspect of the war in Vietnam occurred at the Presidio in 1975 after the withdrawal of American forces from Vietnam. On April 3 the first air flights carrying orphans from the war-torn country arrived at the Presidio. The Army adapted the reserve center, Harmon Hall, 649, as the reception center for the children. When that building became full, two World War II barracks, 617 and 910, were pressed into service. By April 13 all the orphans had been absorbed into the civilian community. Hardly had the Presidio caught its breath when more orphan flights delivered their tiny passengers on April 22. The last of these departed the Presidio on May 4. All told the Presidio housed, clothed, fed, medically treated, and processed 1,318 Vietnam orphans in a most satisfactory manner that lovely spring.⁵⁶

In 1972 the U.S. Congress created the Golden Gate National Recreation Area that encompassed shoreline areas of San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo counties. Congressman Phillip Burton introduced the bill and influenced it to include the Presidio of San Francisco within the area's boundaries. Any Presidio land that the military deemed surplus was to be turned over to the National Park Service. Fort Point had become a national historic site in 1970 and now the Army permitted a portion of Crissy Field alongside the bay and Baker Beach alongside the ocean, a total of 44.7 acres, to the recreation area.

When the bill to establish the recreation area was still pending in the Congress, some San Franciscans became alarmed at army plans for new construction on the reservation and the resulting loss of open space. Representative William S. Mailliard prevailed on Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird to block construction temporarily. In August 1970 San Francisco newspapers announced that the Army had suspended all new construction at the Presidio until the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation completed a study of all public lands in the Bay Area prior to the planning of the proposed recreation area. About that time

55. *New York Times*, June 22, 1970.

56. R.V. Kane, June 30, 1975, Support Plan for Vietnam Orphans, PAM.

citizens became alarmed that the Presidio had cut down 340 trees for construction. The Army quickly countered that it had already planted 3,000 replacements. Finally, in November 1970 San Francisco's Mayor Joseph Alioto and the Army's Lt. Gen. Stanley Larsen reached an agreement on keeping the Presidio "green."⁵⁷

In 1978 the Defense Department initiated a "base realignment study" to investigate the Presidio to determine if it should be discontinued. The resultant study, issued in 1979, concluded that the Presidio should continue as a permanent installation.⁵⁸

On July 4, 1974, the U.S. Army established the Presidio Army Museum in the Civil War post hospital, 2. John Phillip Langellier became its first director and Eric Saul the curator. Under their direction, with the funding support of the Fort Point Museum Association (later renamed Fort Point and Army Museum Association and finally Fort Point and Presidio Historical Association), first-class exhibits telling the story of the Presidio and its role in the Bay Area took shape. At the same time the museum developed an archival collection and a library. Three years later a dedication ceremony attended the opening of a second floor and exhibits that illustrated the army career of Gen. Joseph Stilwell and World Wars I and II.⁵⁹

C. Fort Winfield Scott, 1946-1978

Fort Winfield Scott had gained its independence as a separate post in 1912. Thirty-four years later, at the close of World War II the fort once again became a sub-post of the Presidio of San Francisco. On June 1, 1946, the U.S. Army's Coast Artillery School transferred to Scott from Fort Monroe, Virginia,

57. PSF, "Annual Historical Supplement," 1975, PAM; File: Base Realignment Study, "Master Plans, PSF; Terry Link, "Battle of the Presidio," *San Francisco Magazine* (October 1970), pp. 24-27 and 56; *San Francisco Examiner*, March 8, August 8, and November 18, 1970.

58. *The State Journal-Register*, Springfield, Illinois, December 16, 1979.

59. *Star Presidian*, January 28, 1977; Frank McGrane, interview, June 1990. When closure of the Presidio as a military post neared, the Army moved objects and artifacts and library and archival material out of the museum. Some was shipped to various destinations and some was placed in a warehouse, during which process a considerable amount of valuable historical material was lost and, in a number of instances, stolen. When the Army transferred the museum to the National Park Service it proved to be a building filled mostly with empty exhibit cases. Regional Historian Gordon Chappell, NPS, memorandum for record, January 10, 1995.

and was renamed the Artillery School, Seacoast. Emphasis now centered on antiaircraft defense.

Among the school's early commanders was Maj. Gen. William S. Lawton who had served at the fort in the 1930s as commandant of the West Point Preparatory School. In 1947 General Lawton hosted 600 state, civic, business, and military leaders from northern and central California on a tour of the much reduced Harbor Defenses of San Francisco complete with displays and demonstrations of antiaircraft weapons.⁶⁰

That the traditional coastal defenses had become obsolete became clear in a 1948 army document that declared as obsolete Fort Winfield Scott's Batteries Marcus Miller, McKinnon-Stotsenberg, Howe-Wagner, Saffold, Godfrey, and Cranston. All but the last became available for storage. Battery Cranston now served as classrooms for the Artillery School. For Army Day 1949 the school set up exhibits for the visiting public: 90mm dual purpose rifle, SCR 584 radar set, 155mm rifle, and antiaircraft and beach defense operations.⁶¹

In 1954 the field artillery's era of rockets and missiles began with the first troop unit firing of a Corporal missile at Fort Bliss, Texas. That year the Nike Ajax missile became operational in the Bay Area. It was capable of destroying a single enemy bomber at thirty miles. Before that, in 1951, Fort Baker in Marin County had become the headquarters for the "Western Army Antiaircraft Command" and on March 10, 1952, the headquarters of the 47th AAA Brigade arrived at Fort Baker as the parent organization for antiaircraft artillery units in eight western states. Fort Winfield Scott became the headquarters of the 30th Artillery Group and one of its two battalions (the 9th AAA Gun Battalion – 120mm guns) and the headquarters of the 718th and 728th Gun Battalions (90mm guns) whose batteries were spread over the Bay Area. These weapons were phased out over the next few years as Nike missiles arrived in California.⁶²

60. Charles H. Bogart, *Controlled Mines, A History of Their Use by the United States* (Bennington, VT: Weapons and Welfare Press, 1986), p. 22; *Army and Navy Journal*, August 2 and 16, 1947.

61. "Appendix A," apparently in a letter February 24, 1948, Master Plans PSF; *Western Star, Official Publication, Sixth Army*, April 6-9, 1949, PAM. No date has been found for the closing of the school. It probably closed in the early 1950s when an Antiaircraft Command arrived in the Bay Area.

62. PSF, Post Diary, 1946-1953; *Star Presidian*, May 28, 1954; Hagwood, *San Francisco District*, p. 271. In 1955 Western Army Antiaircraft Command changed its name to 6th Regional Antiaircraft Command, and in 1957 to 6th Region U.S. Army Air Defense Command.

By 1954 the headquarters of the 30th Antiaircraft Artillery Group had moved from Fort Winfield Scott to Fort Barry. The first Nike Ajax missiles were activated at temporary locations in the Bay Area and the 740th AAA Battalion, which had been stationed at Fort Winfield Scott since 1952, was redesignated a Missile Antiaircraft Battalion or AAA Missile Battalion. Congressmen visited Battery B's Nike site in 1955. By then it had been named Battery Caufield, the only Nike battery given a name and otherwise designated as Site SF-89. It was named for an earlier battery commander, Lt. Col. Thomas D. Caufield. On Armed Forces Day 1956, the Army invited the public for its first view of the 740th Battalion's Nike missiles and the California National Guard's 90mm guns at the fort. The *Star Presidian* carried an article saying the battalion headquarters and launcher areas were at Scott and the control area on Mount Sutro.⁶³

In October 1957 Fort Winfield Scott became the site of another army school, the Air Defense School, operated by the 30th AAA Group. Located in building 1208, a former barracks, the school trained in Nike operations employing Battery B, 740th AAA Missile Battalion, as the school battery.

An advanced version of the Nike missile, the Hercules, was introduced to the Bay Area in 1958. Longer and heavier than the Ajax, Nike Hercules had more than twice the range and could be fitted with a nuclear warhead. By then conventional antiaircraft gun units had been eliminated for strategic defense purposes.⁶⁴

Early in 1959 the headquarters of the 30th Artillery Group (Air Defense) returned to Fort Winfield Scott to make way for a new unit at Fort Barry. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery occupied the former headquarters building 1201 and barracks 1202. There were now three Nike organizations at the fort: the 30th's headquarters; the headquarters and Battery B of the Missile Battalion; and the Air Defense School. About that time Congressman Phil Weaver, Nebraska, blasted the Fort Winfield Scott missile site saying that the Army operated it with "shocking laxity." The site was too close to the golf course, had too few

63. *San Francisco Chronicle*, October 22, 1954; *Star Presidian* May 19 and August 6, 1964; B.N. McMaster, et al, *Historical Overview of the Nike Missile System* (Gainesville, FL: Environmental Science and Engineering, 1984), p. 3-2.

64. *Star Presidian*, November 24, 1955 and October 11, 1957; McMaster, *Overview*, p. 2-1; *San Francisco Chronicle*, March 23, ca. 1957. A plaque near the entrance of the former Nike site states: "Battery Caufield Dedicated in Honor of Lt. Col. Thomas Davis Caufield, Artillery, 1911-1955, Donated by his Associates of Headquarters, Western Army Anti-Aircraft Command." Gordon Chappell, NPS, Field Notes, 1990.

guards, and was operational only eight hours a day. The Army denied the charges.⁶⁵

In 1960 the 4th Missile Battalion, 61st Artillery, moved out of its headquarters building, 1648, and departed; a unit from the California National Guard took control of Battery Caufield, which continued to be armed with the Nike Ajax. That May, on Armed Forces Day, the 40th Artillery Brigade, Army Air Defense Command, at Fort Baker opened all missile sites, including Scott's, to public inspection. Two years later, 1962, the headquarters of the 40th moved to Scott. Brigade headquarters occupied post headquarters 1201. Other buildings occupied by the 40th were 1218 (former barracks), 1219 (former storehouse), 1221 (former gas station and now a motor pool), 1227 (former shop and now radar maintenance), and Battery Saffold (now communications equipment storage). By then the missile school was known as the San Francisco Army Defense School. In 1962 also the commanding general of the U.S. Army Air Defense Command inspected the San Francisco missile defenses. Although Battery Caufield had been inactivated by then, an Honor Guard at Fort Winfield Scott greeted the general. The Nike era was ending, however, and in February 1974 the *San Francisco Chronicle* announced that all Nike Hercules batteries, including the four sites remaining in the Bay Area, would be closed.⁶⁶ The United States now turned its attention to the development of a Ballistic Missile Defense System by which a missile was launched into stationary orbit. Once that missile located a group of attacking missiles it determined which among them were real warheads. It then fired multitude warheads to intercept the targets. Military posts in the Bay Area would not be involved.

Earlier this study noted the presence of the 99th Engineer Company, 30th Engineer Group (Topographical Survey) that arrived at Fort Winfield Scott from Hawaii in 1950. It was but the vanguard. Soon the entire 30th Group, more than 1,000 men, took up quarters at the fort. For the next several years it remained the largest single troop unit on the Presidio reservation. It spent the summer months each year in Alaska compiling an accurate topographic map of the territory. A partial listing of the buildings occupied by the 30th Group included:

Headquarters and Headquarters Company – barracks 1218

65. *Star Presidian*, February 6, 1959; *San Francisco Chronicle*, April 30 and August 10. Just before the congressman's charges, the Bay Area Nike sites acquired sentry dogs, but none was assigned to Battery Caufield because of the protection provided by the Presidio of San Francisco.

66. *Star Presidian*, May 21, 1960 and January 19, 1962; *San Francisco Chronicle*, February 5, 1974.

Photomapping plant, 21st Engineer Company – storehouse 1242
Reproduction plant, 99th Engineer Company – storehouse 1244
Relief map plant, 171st Engineer Detachment – storehouse 1244
21st Engineer Company mess – barracks 1216
99th Engineer Company mess – barracks 1217
549th Engineer Company mess – barracks 1204

Other units included the 660th Engineer Battalion and the 521st Engineer Company.⁶⁷

The Department of the Army published a letter on July 25, 1956, that once again marked an end to Fort Winfield Scott's official existence:

Fort Winfield Scott is an integral part of Presidio of San Francisco, California. The home station of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 30th Engineer Group (Topo Survey) and attached units will be known as Presidio of San Francisco, California in lieu of *Fort Winfield Scott*, California.⁶⁸

In March 1958 the 30th Engineer Group was reduced in size to a battalion by the inactivation of several units. Then, in May 1959, the last unit, the 171st Engineer Detachment (Relief Map), was inactivated and the 30th Engineers ceased to be. Although "Fort Winfield Scott" was no longer an official designation, the area continued to go by that name. In 1964 eight Army Reserve units underwent two weeks of active duty training there, billeted in barracks 1205. A year later the Army Education Center occupied barracks 1216. It offered college courses and high school diplomas. The Fort Scott gymnasium 1226 underwent a complete face-lifting in 1965, offering two handball courts, sauna, weight lifting room, half court basketball and badminton, locker room, and lounge.⁶⁹

Since World War II the Presidio had undergone many changes in missions, its garrison, physical plant, geographic area of responsibility, and new wars. The achievements of more than thirty years were observed on July 4, 1976, when the Presidio of San Francisco joined the nation in observing the bicentennial of the American Revolution. A bicentennial tree joined the centennial tree on the parade ground. That evening invited guests witnessed a multi-service, multi-nation review and retreat ceremony

67. PSF, "Information Concerning the Presidio of San Francisco," June 20, 1957; *Star Presidian*, May 19, 1956.

68. PSF, *Daily Bulletin 153*, August 7, 1956. The Air Defense units continued to be subordinate to headquarters at Fort Baker.

69. *Star Presidian*, March 28, 1958, June 5, 1964, February 5 and June 11, 1965.

on the main parade ground. The Presidio celebrated its bicentennial that evening too.