

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Presidio of San Francisco
name of property
San Francisco, California
county and State

Section 8 Page 1

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria consideration, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

INTRODUCTION

This introduction outlines the format of Section 8 and presents a summary statement of significance, information on the application of National Historic Landmark Criteria and Themes, and an explanation of contributing resources and predicted archeological features within the San Francisco National Historic Landmark district. After the introduction, each of the defined periods of the district's development is discussed chronologically with emphasis on historical significance and the remaining resources that embody that significance. (Some additional information on significance has been included resource-by-resource within the individual descriptions of contributing resources contained in Section 7.)

The following is an outline of Section 8.

- I Introduction**
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SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

See the Presidio National Register of Historic Preservation Forms (October 1993) for a summary statement of significance.

CRITERIA AND THEMES

The Presidio possesses national significance under combined **National Register Criteria A, C and D**. Criterion C relates to the property's distinction as a district entity, and Criterion A relates to the district's association with events and broad patterns of history, and D relates to the information potential for both historic and anthropological research to be found in the Presidio's historic archeological resources. National Register areas of significance include **Military**, and **Archeology: Historic--Non-Aboriginal** pertains to potential archeological resources.

Because the Presidio is a National Historic Landmark, only the national level of significance has been considered in applying criteria and areas of significance. It appears, however, that at the local level the district is significant in all of the areas discussed directly above.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

The period of significant historical development of the Presidio of San Francisco National Historic Landmark District has previously been determined as spanning continuously from the Post's establishment by the Spanish in 1776 through the World War II era. This National Historic Landmark District Update expands the period of significance to 1958, the latest construction date of a listed Contributing Resource. One hundred and five buildings that were constructed during the Cold War period have been determined significant to military history at the Presidio and retain their historical integrity. Some of the early Cold War-era resources, constructed during the period of significance, have suffered alterations and were determined noncontributing based on the loss of integrity to their historical-period design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and/or association. Decisions on the contributing or noncontributing status of resources within the district have been based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Evaluating Significance within Registered Historic Districts:

- (1) A building contributing to the historical significance of a district is one that by location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association adds to the district's sense of time and place and historical development.
- (2) A building not contributing to the historical significance of a district is one that does not add to the district's sense of time and place and historical development; or one where the location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association have been so altered or have so deteriorated that the overall integrity of the building has been irretrievably lost.
- (3) Ordinarily buildings that have been built within the past 50 years shall not be considered to contribute to the significance of a district unless a strong justification concerning their historical merit is given, or the historical attributes of the district are considered to be less than 50 years old.

For buildings at the Presidio, the evaluation of contributing or noncontributing status, including the assessment of integrity, has involved only the exteriors. The significance and integrity of interior features and spaces have not been addressed. This does not in any way indicate that the

interiors of Presidio buildings are insignificant, only that they have not been inspected and evaluated systematically as part of this study.

The post-World War II buildings that contribute to the Presidio of San Francisco National Historic Landmark District are 1940s and 1950s reinterpretations of earlier Presidio architectural designs. Two housing enclaves would have been included in the 1993 Presidio NHL Update, but they were constructed just outside the period of historical significance, as determined at the time. The housing at Nos. 765 and 767 (1950) reinterprets 1920s and 1930s-era Colonial Revival housing, including similar massing, side-facing gable roofs, multi-light double-hung wood-sash windows, and paneled wood doors framed by surrounds that feature fluted pilasters and entablatures. The red doors, red asphalt shingle roofs, and red brick chimneys recall the massing, fenestration, and color palate of housing such as the pilots' quarters (Nos. 959-964) at Crissy Field, built in 1921, or the massing and details of the brick masonry Colonial Revival houses (Nos. 715-760), built between 1931 and 1939 nearby in the West Cantonment area. Buildings 401-404, 406-407, 409-414, 416-417, 419-424, 432, and 434 were built in 1948 as officer family housing. They reinterpret 1920s and 1930s-era Spanish Colonial Revival duplex housing at the Presidio. The white stuccoed walls, multi-light double-hung wood-sash windows, covered entry porches, end chimneys, and red asphalt shingle roofs recall the duplexes at Fort Winfield Scott. These include No. 1270, built in 1921 with a clay tile roof, double-hung windows, and a covered entry porch, or Nos. 1275-1277, built in 1933 with similar features and chimneys at each end. Both newer housing complexes borrow the character-defining features from older housing tracts, while simplifying the overall massing and ornamentation. These isolated enclaves are the most highly compatible with the Post's architectural traditions.

Similarly, Building No. 644 at Crissy Field, one half of Harmon Hall – US Army Reserve Center (1951), mimics the gabled parapet roofline of the adjacent warehouse building that was constructed thirty years earlier. The white stucco cladding, rhythmic series of windows, and red asphalt shingle roof also relate the post-World War II building to the massing, materials and color palate of the building next to it.

The Post Library (No. 356) at the Main Post also reinterprets the Spanish Colonial Revival Style in a more pronounced Modern idiom characteristic of Mid-Century Modern architecture. The library displays the combination of a Modernist California school architecture style with a Presidio of San Francisco Mission Style overlay. The building features wide expanses of glazing, which provides a great deal of natural light and creates a visual connection to the sloping landscape. The design attempts to reconcile the modernist aesthetic with a more "regionalist" flavor, combining transparent, light-filled architecture (represented by Richard Neutra's Eagle Rock Clubhouse of ca. 1953) with expansive eaves and a red clay tile roof, a regionalist motif that was frequently used in older buildings at the Presidio. No other Cold War-era Community Center building at the Presidio combines these features so well.

In addition, a comparison of National Register-eligible buildings at the San Francisco Presidio to those at other bases in California reveals that libraries were not frequently built at other bases. Those with libraries, such as Hamilton Army Airfield and Fort MacArthur, combined them in one building with other uses including a recreational facility or commissary and cold storage. It appears unusual for a building at a California military base to be constructed purely for library

purposes. In addition, the library at Hamilton Army Airfield in Novato, California, is a one-story frame building constructed in an expansion area during World War II to serve as an educational building. It is essentially a wood barracks building without any emphasis in design. The design of the Post Library at the Presidio of San Francisco, though not exceptionally significant on its own, appears to be the best example of a military base library in California that was constructed purely for library purposes. Further research into non-contributing Cold War-era facilities at other military bases may prove otherwise.

Building No. 942 at Crissy Field, built in 1958, is a contributing resource because of its distinctive architecture and commanding presence at the north end of the Presidio. The large two-story building, like Nos. 644 and 649 (built 1951), contribute to the solid row of buildings and the industrial character of Crissy Field. All three are visible from the Bay and the Golden Gate Bridge. The white or cream-colored concrete buildings feature red roofs or red window sashes, and blend with the Spanish Colonial Revival buildings nearby. Together with the 1920s-era buildings, they create a cohesive appearance and functional character of the former Crissy Air Field.

The Wherry Housing, Nos. 1500s in the South Post area, does not represent a particularly good example of architectural design or integrity, but it does represent a significant event in the development of the Presidio and military installations in general. A Program Comment on US Army Capehart and Wherry Era Housing, completed in Winter 2004 by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), facilitated the Army's compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) with regard to its management of inventory of Capehart and Wherry Era family housing and associated structures. The program comment fulfilled the NHPA Section 106 requirement for an extensive review process before significant changes are made to any building over 50 years old. The Army completed a three-part mitigation effort to reduce the historical impact of changes to Capehart-Wherry housing: a historic context document, neighborhood design guidelines, and video documentation. This Presidio NHL Update follows the recommendation of the Army, and considers the Wherry Housing as eligible for listing.

Though outside the original 1776 to 1945 period of significance, these contributing resources represent either a continuation of prevalent architectural styles and functions at the Presidio or a significant event in Presidio housing. All of the buildings contribute to the modern development in the 1940s and 1950s that characterized the Cold War era.

ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

At the time the 1993 National Historic Landmark Update was produced, no archeological studies had been conducted the Presidio of San Francisco. The 1993 Update offered suggestions of areas that could be studied and historical themes that could be investigated. Since then, the Presidio Trust Archeology Lab has completed numerous archeological studies at the Presidio. As part of the 2008 NHL Update, William Self Associates worked with the Presidio Trust Archeology Lab to create official and standardized records of each archeological property.

The Presidio Trust Archeology Lab and William Self Associates have completed State of

California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 C Archeological Site Record forms for archeological sites at the Presidio of San Francisco. These records include a Main Post Archeology Site Record and Continuation Form, a Main Post Primary Record, a Marine Hospital and Cemetery Archeology Site Record and Continuation Form, and a Marin Hospital and Cemetery Primary Record. The records are included as Appendix B at the end of this document.

In addition, the Presidio Trust Archeology Lab and William Self Associates have created Archeological Property Templates for a number of properties, which include the property name, period of significance, historical context, significance and integrity, expectations of further archeological investigation, and archeological approach for research and investigation. These templates as included as Appendix C at the end of this document.

BEGINNING OF THE COLD WAR, 1946-1949

Sixth U.S. Army

The first few years following the conclusion of World War II were ones of transition. The responsibilities of the Presidio of San Francisco shifted from active duty during the war to becoming the home training base of the Sixth U.S. Army, which was activated at Fort Sam Houston, Texas on January 25, 1943 at the request of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur to fight in the Philippines during WWII. Prior to having headquarters at the Presidio, the Sixth Army saw almost continuous action in the Pacific Theater of World War II. It was part of an island-hopping campaign that included the battles in New Guinea and the Philippines. As the Sixth Army was set to invade Japan, the Japanese surrendered to the Allies. On September 25, 1946, the troops of the Sixth Army were the first to land in Japan as occupation forces and carried out of Japan under the direction of General Douglas MacArthur.

On January 28, 1946 the Sixth Army was inactivated, only to be reactivated on March 1, 1946 under General Joseph W. Stilwell in San Francisco. It was one of six U.S. Zone of Interior Continental Armies that had been planned back in 1927. Sixth Army Headquarters was located at the Presidio of San Francisco for the following reasons: the area included extensive underground emergency facilities, San Francisco was a focal point for strategic operations, US Army Air Defense command sites defended the Bay Area, the Bay Area was a headquarters location of the US Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard, and San Francisco was a hub of transportation and communication. The Sixth Army Headquarters was originally located in Building 38, the former Enlisted Men's Barracks (c. 1940). Later, the headquarters expanded to Buildings 35 through 39. The Sixth Army band quarters were located in Building 100 (brick barracks) and the Sixth Army Library used Building 1188 (warehouse).

From 1946 to 1970, the Sixth Army was in charge of defense for nine Western States-Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and Montana. In 1948, the Sixth Army provided the proving ground for important developments in military science and activities by hosting experiments and demonstrations of atomic weapons at Camp Desert Rock, Nevada. Many Sixth Army troops participated in the maneuvers and acquired information to analyze and develop protective measures for units and personnel in both

defensive and offensive phases of atomic warfare.

Back at the Presidio, the Sixth Army primarily engaged in peacetime military training. Administration responsibilities 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, and troop tests; assistance to civilian agencies in time of disasters; and command and support of the Army Reserve and the ROTC; and support of the National Guard. Among the units attached to Headquarters, Special Troops, in 1946 were: Headquarters Company; Post Operating Company; 11th Transportation Corps Car Company; 54th AGF Band; 63rd Military Police Platoon; 115th and 306th Counter-Intelligence Corps detachments; 199th Photo Interpretive Team; 13th Signal Operating Company; and a WAC detachment.

In 1945, the Presidio hosted a reception for officers attending the meeting of the United Nations. In November 1946, a United Nations committee inspected the Presidio as a possible site for the UN headquarters. President Harry S. Truman was agreeable to making the Presidio available. However, the United Nations chose New York City after John D. Rockefeller offered \$8.5 million worth of land in Manhattan.

After the Presidio was cleared of the possibility of becoming a UN headquarters, the Sixth U.S. Army announced plans for expansion of hospitals, housing, and administration offices for its personnel. The first buildings constructed were housing units on Presidio Hill above Infantry Terrace. Twenty-three four-plexes were constructed on either side of Washington Boulevard for officers' families, and were built from 1947 to 1948 (Building Nos. 401-404, 406-407, 409-414, 416-417, 419-424, 428, 432, and 434). Site planning for the units, which housed 80 families, was influenced by the curving topography of the setting.

Coastal Defenses

In addition to the Sixth Army presence at the Presidio, the US Army's Coast Artillery School transferred to Fort Winfield Scott from Fort Monroe, Virginia on June 1, 1946. It was renamed the "Artillery School, Seacoast" and emphasized antiaircraft defense. However, the division was terminated in 1950 when it became clear that the coastal defenses were outmoded. They were quickly scrapped, and in their place arose antiaircraft defense, with defense locations around the Bay Area and headquarters at Fort Winfield Scott.

KOREAN WAR, 1950-1953

The Korean War provided a means for the Sixth Army to ramp up their missions and their personnel. Combat troops from the Sixth Army's Second Division, trained at the Presidio, led the way in South Korea's Defense in 1950. POWs arrived at Letterman Hospital during the war. At that time, the hospital contained 1,500 beds and admitted 16,000 people, 28% of whom were battle casualties.

When the Korean War broke out and Communist Chinese forces entered the war, President Truman arranged a peace treaty of peace with Japan and the establishment of a security system

in the Pacific similar to NATO in Europe. A meeting was held in the new Service Club (No. 135), built in 1949 at the Main Post. The history and significance of this event and building are described in further detail in the 1993 Presidio NHL Update.

Harmon Hall - US Army Reserve Center

In keeping with the Sixth US Army's role as Army Reserves support, Harmon Hall – US Army Reserve Center was constructed at Crissy Field in 1951 for use as the US Army Reserve Center. Harmon Hall – US Army Reserve Center was comprised of two buildings, Nos. 644 and 649, which contained offices, classrooms, equipment and vehicle storage and training facilities. At the time, the Army named their new reserve centers for enlisted men rather than officers. According to Erwin N. Thompson and Sally B. Woodbridge, “‘Harmon Hall, USAR Center’ honored Sgt. Roy W. Harmon, who was killed in action in Italy in 1944. Harmon was assigned the Ninety-first Infantry Division and was a native Californian. In July 1944, 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, he destroyed the third gun just as he fell dead. The U.S. Congress awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously.” It is probable that Sergeant Harmon served at the Presidio earlier in his army career, although this has not been confirmed.

Wherry Housing

The largest development at the Presidio during the Korean War was the establishment of Wherry housing near Baker Beach in the South Post area. The Wherry Act of 1948 relieved the Army of some of its continuing nation-wide housing shortage by allowing private enterprise to build and operate rental units on or adjacent to military installations. Many Wherry Housing projects were constructed in California including those at Fort Ord, Monterey; Edwards Air Force Base, Kern County; Mather Field and McClellan Air Force Bases, both in Sacramento. The Federal Housing Agency (FHA) loaned the construction funds to those private companies. The Presidio leased 38 acres to the George Bauer Company of Portland, Oregon to construct 500 housing units. Angus McSweeney was architect of the project, which required that some of the Presidio Forest be cut down. Completed in 1953, the housing units (Nos. 1500s) were quickly occupied. However, the military soon concluded that the quarters lacked sufficient space and the quality of construction was poor.

MILITARY AFFAIRS BETWEEN WARS, 1954-1958

Following the end of the Korean War, the Presidio of San Francisco focused on developing its antimissile defense system, while also building more housing and community services for the growing number of resident personnel. At this time, the Sixth Army headquarters consisted of 379 officers, 447 enlisted men, and 7432 civilians. 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 throughout the Sixth U.S. Army states. 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.

Capehart-Wherry Housing

In 1955, Senator Homer Capehart, a Republican who served in the Senate from 1944 through 1962, sponsored a new housing program that became law on August 11, 1955. In this initiative, private sponsors built housing but did not operate or maintain it. Like the Wherry Act, winning bidders obtained mortgage insurance from the FHA on the entire amount of their bids. However, when a sponsor completed construction, the company transferred the mortgages to the Department of Defense. Because of the disparity in quality between the larger Capehart homes and the Wherry homes, many of the Wherry developments were at less than full occupancy and some projects defaulted. By the end of the 1950s, Congress mandated the acquisition of Wherry housing at all installations that were to receive Capehart units. The primary objective of acquiring the Wherry houses was for the military to bring these homes up to the standards of other assigned housing in size and design of living spaces. As a result, many kitchen upgrades and additional bathrooms and utility rooms were authorized. At the Presidio, the Army resisted taking over the Wherry housing in the South Post area because of the inadequate space and extensive upgrades that would need to take place. It took several more years and much opposition was voiced before the Army acquired the housing.

Antimissile Defense Network

At this time, the military expanded and strengthened the antimissile defense network in the Bay Area. Nike Ajax missiles were first deployed in 1954 in the United States, and remained in use until 1964. The Ajax was a two-stage missile using a solid-fueled booster and a liquid-fueled sustainer motor that delivered high explosive warheads to a radar-determined intercept point with target aircraft. Nike Hercules missiles were introduced in 1958, and gradually replaced the Ajax. Some Hercules missiles remained in use until the mid-1970s. Hercules was a two-stage missile with a solid-fueled sustainer and primarily nuclear warheads.

Nike missile artilleries around the San Francisco Bay were commanded by 40th Artillery Brigade, headquartered at Fort Winfield Scott Headquarters Building (No. 1201). Other Fort Scott structures that were occupied by Nike organizations include a barracks (No. 1218), used as the headquarters battery barracks; the quartermaster storehouse (No. 1219), used for personnel; a motor pool office (No. 1221); the quartermaster shop (No. 1227), used as a search maintenance radar; and Battery Saffold (No. 1354), used for communications equipment.

In addition to administration facilities, Nike batteries were also installed at Fort Winfield Scott. In October 1957, Fort Winfield Scott also became the site of the Air Defense School, operated by the 30th AAA Group. Located in No. 1208, a former barracks, the school trained in Nike operations employing battery B, 740th AAA Missile Battalion, as the school battery. A typical Nike battery consisted of two main operating areas and sometimes included a third area for

housing. The battery control area contained electronic equipment for target tracking, missile guidance, and fire control. Support facilities such as an electric generator building and motor pool were also included in some instances. The launch area contained the facilities and equipment required to assemble, test, and maintain the missiles and associated launchers.

Community Center Development

As the Cold War progressed and the Sixth Army used the Presidio of San Francisco for reserve forces training, the permanent resident population at the Post grew. Military and civilian employees and their families created a demand for housing and services. As a result, community services were established, and a group of service-oriented buildings was created in the undeveloped southwest corner of the Main Post. This community center of sorts became a location for community activity and collective recreation. By 1958, these buildings included: a Red Cross building (No. 97), Presidio Theater (No. 99), Non-Commissioned Officers Club (No. 135), Post Exchange (No. 385), and Post Library (No. 386). Buildings relating to a suburban emphasis on the automobile include the gas service station (231).

Though the buildings share a common functional identity, they share no common physical identity in plan or architectural design. Most of the buildings do conform to the axial geometry of the Main Post grid, rather than adopting the sloping topography of the hill above. The Post Exchange (now Herbst Pavilion Exhibit Hall, 1955), and Post Library (now the Adult Health Care Center, 1958) were set back behind large parking lots, expressing the suburbanization of the post-war Main Post landscape while creating a spatially undefined cluster of buildings. They do not display a distinctly two-sided character with a ceremonial front facing a formal street, as do the historic buildings on the Post. Though the army created and updated master plans for the Presidio throughout the years, the plans did not incorporate the Community Center and its modern buildings in a cohesive way, contrasting to the design and management plans for the historic area of the Post. The construction of other service buildings outside the southwest corner of the Main Post, which occurred later in the 1970s and 1980s, also indicates that the planning of the Community Center was not cohesive, well-planned, or purposefully planned. Rather, buildings were constructed on an ad-hoc basis as various needs arose, and they were placed in available locations. There was space for several buildings in the former baseball field at the southwest corner of the Main Post. The theme of community center development is represented on other military bases in California and throughout the United States, and though the Presidio of San Francisco displays some examples, more rational and cohesive Community Center planning can most likely be found elsewhere.

The architecture of the community services buildings is also eclectic, representing a collection of structures from different building periods. The Post Exchange was deemed an “ultra-modern structure” when it was constructed in 1955, but today it is seen as a simple and typical Mid-century Modern building. The majority of the other community service buildings are also simple, economical, and typical in their design and construction.

VIETNAM WAR, 1959-1973

Housing Development

Though the Vietnam War diverted resources from housing, the services nevertheless built about 8,000 houses per year across the country during the 1960s and early 1970s. Consequently, this period is largely marked by the construction of housing at the Presidio of San Francisco. In 1960, nearly 2000 civilians and 4,800 military worked on the Presidio. The workforce represented \$73 million in payroll, purchasing, and contracting. By 1970, 3,200 civilians and 6,000 military accounted for \$79 million in salaries and \$24 million in purchasing and contracting. The large number of employees made housing a priority.

Of the 500 existing Wherry housing units (Nos. 1500s) in the South Post area in 1959, Presidio personnel occupied 259 of them, U.S. Army Transportation Terminal Command occupied 30 units, Letterman General Hospital personnel occupied 78, and the U.S. Navy occupied 133. In 1962, the Presidio finally purchased the Wherry housing, which the Army had fought against for 3 years because they deemed the livability substandard and too crowded. The Army had argued that the bedroom and storage areas were too small, kitchens were crowded, there was no soundproofing, utilities were undersized, and the units needed major rewiring. Overall, the Army resisted purchasing the housing because they felt the rehabilitation costs would be very expensive. As a compromise, the Army assigned the former officers' quarters to enlisted men after purchase. The Biltwell Company completed a \$967,300 contract to upgrade the plumbing, flooring, and lighting of the acquired Wherry housing project in 1967.

In addition to rehabilitating existing housing, new units were built in the West Cantonment area (Nos. 700s and 800s) in 1966 and 1969 as enlisted family housing. Officers' family housing was built, as well, including Nos. 1401-1443 in the South Post Area. The 1970 Presidio Master Plan mentioned that 252 units of officer family housing had recently been constructed, including 102 units south of the Fort Point area (Nos. 1211, 1234-1236, 1238, 1251, 1253-1259, 1278-1280, 1282, 1284) and on Lincoln Boulevard east of Baker Beach (Nos. 1703-1713). These developments diminished some of most striking natural assets in the City and Region. The Master Plan proposed development of 340 more units, and looked to heavily wooded sites as new locations. These include a site at El Polin Springs, on Park Presidio Boulevard, adjacent to existing family housing, a large wooded ridge area south of the cemetery, two wooded sites west of Park Presidio Boulevard on either side of Washington Blvd (52 units on 13 acres), an open sloping site north of the Public Health Services Hospital (102 units on 13 acres), and eastward expansion of the recently constructed housing (Nos. 1703-1713) on Lincoln Blvd (42 units on 5.4 acres). None of these spaces were developed, as the only housing constructed after 1970 was located in the Letterman Complex area. These housing tracts, had they been developed, would have contradicted the Army's long-held value of preserving nature and open space at the Presidio.

Letterman Hospital

By the Vietnam era, the Army began planning for a more modern hospital and opened a new ten-story, 550-bed facility in 1969. The new Letterman Army Medical Center trained a quarter of the Army's medical specialists and served soldiers wounded in Vietnam. In 1971, the adjoining Letterman Army Institute of Research opened to promote development of artificial blood, laser physics, and the treatment of trauma. During these years, the Army began demolishing parts of the 1899 quadrangle to build housing for nurses and enlisted men. The remaining historic buildings housed support services.

Sixth U.S. Army

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, the Sixth Army was a combat-ready installation under the Continental Command. During the 1960s, the Sixth Army in eight Western States controlled 30 army installations and had 57,000 active army troops. Headquarters at the Presidio controlled or supervised the training of a quarter of a million National Guard, Army Reserve, Reserve Officer Training Corps, and National Defense Cadet Corps personnel. In 1966, Sixth Army's 4th Infantry Division shipped from Fort Lewis, Washington and engaged in combat in Vietnam's Central Highlands; National Guard units and Army Reserves also went to Vietnam. In addition, in 1968, the Stockade Bldg (No. 1213) at Fort Winfield Scott was filled to overflowing with army prisoners (deserters and AWOLS) from the Sixth Army Area.

The Sixth Army underwent reorganization on August 1, 1973. Missions and personnel were reduced, but geographical responsibilities were increased. Missions changed to the training of the U.S. Army Reserve and the Army National Guard. It also became the Army Force command for domestic emergency plans and operations (civil disturbances and natural disasters), and specified civil-military programs in the Western states. The Sixth Army had already grown under Project GERONIMO and added Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota and 22,768 active Army personnel under its control. In 1973, it further added Nebraska, Kansas, and New Mexico.

During the 1960s and early 1970s, the usefulness of parts of the Presidio, and the Presidio as a whole, came under question. One issue that was explored in Master Plans was whether to expand Crissy Field or use it for other military uses for which the site might be suitable. During the Vietnam War, the air field was primarily used by light airplanes and helicopters to bring wounded Vietnam soldiers from Travis Air Force Base to Letterman Hospital. Crissy Field finally closed to fixed wing aircraft at the end of the war in 1974, though helicopter operations continued for several years.

Another issue was whether the Presidio in general would be better adapted to alternative uses. Though the Army established a firm policy in 1963 to keep the Presidio as a permanent military installation, parts of the Army base were transferred to the National Park Service. In 1971, Fort Point became a National Historic Site, followed by the creation of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) the following year. GGNRA included the shoreline areas within the Presidio's boundaries, and was purposed with maintaining the area for public use and enjoyment of the natural and historic landscape. Congress determined that any Presidio land that the

military deemed surplus was to be turned over to the National Park Service. In addition to Fort Point, the Army permitted 44.7 acres to the recreation area, including a portion of Crissy Field along the bay and Baker Beach alongside the ocean.

OPERATIONAL TRAINING AND READINESS, 1974-1989

In the years following the Vietnam War, the scope of uses at the Presidio narrowed to those of operations training. The Cold War was not yet over, and the Presidio was used for peacetime preparation. During this period, development concentrated on the consolidation of troops, community facilities, and commercial service facilities at Main Post/Letterman Complex, while eliminating troop housing and support facilities at Fort Scott. By the mid-1970s, the Nike (Hercules and Ajax) missiles had been replaced by ICBMs. Consequently, materials were removed from Nike missile sites, and tubes were filled and paved over. The harbor defense fortifications were disarmed, but gun emplacements and ancillary facilities were retained and preserved to the maximum extent feasible as historic landmarks of earlier days. Fort Scott was no longer needed as the headquarters of the antimissile defense network.

The Presidio faced continuing pressure regarding usefulness and possible base closure. The Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA) conducted a Base Realignment Study from April 26, 1977 to December 1978. During this time, the U.S. Army prepared a Cost Study and Justification Folder to determine whether the Presidio of San Francisco and Letterman Army Medical Center should be retained as permanent military installation facilities. During this lengthy study, the project programming of the Military Construction Army (MCA) was held in abeyance. Though the HQDA approved retention of the installation, all construction projects and long-range plans were inevitably delayed. For example, the Five Year FY81 MCA Project Program encountered a four-year setback, meaning that projects proposed in 1981 would not be built until 1985.

Projects slated for 1985 included a post office project, enlisted barracks on Mason Street, enlisted barracks for medical personnel near Letterman Hospital, a child support service center, a new Commissary building, and an extension to Battery Caulfield Road from the Main Post to the Public Health Services area. Thirteen buildings, including ten temporary World War II buildings, were demolished that year to make way for the new Commissary at Crissy Field.

Likewise, the 1981 and 1987 Master Plans called for an overall improvement to the environment for the Presidio through reduced hazards, increased open space, additional landscaping, and reductions in unsightly buildings and structures. The 1981 plan stated that some 188 temporary buildings and structures, not having any historic significance, would be demolished when no further use existed. No new housing was planned, and all new construction was planned for areas that were currently developed. In other words, no intrusion into open space was planned. The architectural style of new construction was to be contemporary and functional to minimize construction and maintenance costs. The Master Plan gave exception to additions to existing buildings or buildings added to existing complexes, which were to match existing construction, including those with historic Spanish design. Examples of functional contemporary buildings that fit the architectural language of the Presidio include the new commissary (No. 610- now the Sports Basement) at Crissy Field and the new barracks at Letterman Complex, all built in 1989.

These buildings follow the guidelines set forth in the 1986 Presidio of San Francisco Design Guide, and include particular character-defining features, such as clay tile roofs and monitors.

The 1970s and especially the late 1980s marked the highest point in the development of community service facilities. The Post Gymnasium (No. 63, 1971), Presidio Bowl (No. 93, 1989), Burger King restaurant (No. 211, 1989), Child Care Center (No. 387, 1988), Post Exchange expansion (No. 605, 1988), new Commissary (No. 610, 1989), and Branch Exchange (No. 1158, 1988) were built during this period of peacetime training, when many military personnel lived on Post. The Child Care Center replaced four wooden barracks buildings, dating to 1903 and 1909, which were located near the Presidio's Lombard Gate. The new building displaced a softball field and tennis court in the developing Community Center area at the south end of the Main Post. The Army's plans required approval by GGNRA advisors and the San Francisco City Planning Commission, following the creation of the GGNRA and a 1977 memorandum that said the City and Army were to keep each other informed about any planning, construction, or property use that could conflict with the each other's Master Plans. Plans for a larger Post Exchange, Commissary, post office, and barracks at Crissy Field came under scrutiny and controversy around 1986 because they conflicted with GGNRA plans to turn the area into a lagoon and park. Nevertheless, designs for several of those buildings were eventually accepted and constructed.

One of the notable events during these years occurred in April 1975 when the Presidio housed, clothed, fed, medically treated, and processed 1,318 orphans from Vietnam. The Army adapted the reserve center, Harmon Hall (No. 649) as the reception center for the children. Two World War II barracks (Nos. 617 and 910) were used to house them, and the children were sent to Letterman Hospital for their medical needs. By the late 1980s, Letterman Hospital served mainly military retirees and their dependents.

Though the base realignment study of 1978 to 1979 concluded that the Presidio should continue as a permanent installation, a second study was conducted in 1988 as part of the Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC). In the 1988 round of studies, California had four major military installations closed, zero realigned, and 17,353 Department of Defense jobs lost. Nationally, this round of closures eliminated a net total of 20,607 Department of Defense jobs and 16 major bases. Thus, California sustained 84 percent of the nation's net personnel cuts and 25 percent of base closures. In California, the 1988 BRAC round closures included George Air Force Base (Victorville, San Bernardino County), Mather Air Force Base (Sacramento, Sacramento County), Norton Air Force Base (San Bernardino, San Bernardino County), and the Presidio Army Base (San Francisco, San Francisco County). The post was closed and the Army was ordered to vacate by 1995.

PERSIAN GULF WAR AND BRAC, 1990-1994

Following the determination that the Army would be leaving the Presidio of San Francisco, no additional development was planned for the military. The Presidio therefore played no role in the Persian Gulf War. After the transfer of the Presidio to the National Park Service, Letterman

Hospital and the Letterman Research Institute continued to operate until they were deactivated in 1995.