

# **FORT HAMILTON**

## **NEW YORK**

### **LOCATION**

Unlike other military installations, Fort Hamilton is located in an urban environment, New York City. Fort Hamilton is located near the eastern base of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge in the southwest corner of Brooklyn, New York. The post is bordered on its southwestern perimeter by the Belt Parkway, a major thoroughfare which runs parallel to the narrows which serves as the mouth of the Hudson River, and is surrounded on the east and north by local Brooklyn neighborhoods. At 2.5 million people, Brooklyn's population is the largest of New York City's five boroughs. The post is 8 miles from the New York Stock Exchange, the financial capital of the world, and 13 miles from the world renowned Times Square. It is also 8 miles from "Ground Zero." The post is close to three major airports: JFK, LaGuardia and Newark, and 10 miles from Penn Station and Grand Central Station.

### **SIZE**

**Acres:** 168

**Square Footage of Buildings:** 1,539,147 SF

**Plant Replacement Value:** \$253,371,700

### **HISTORY**

On the 4th of July, 1776, a small American battery on the site of today's Fort Hamilton fired on the British men-of-war convoying troops to suppress the American Revolution. They hit the HMS Asia which suffered damage and casualties, but opposition to the immense fleet could be little more than symbolic. However, the event marked one of the earliest uses of the site for military purposes. Without ever firing a shot, the forts at the Narrows held a British fleet at bay during the War of 1812 and perhaps saved New York City from the fate of the Nation's capital, burned by invaders. This underscored the importance of coastal defense and the cornerstone for Fort Hamilton was set in place on June 11, 1825. Six years and a half million dollars later, Captain Levi Whiting raised the first garrison flag. It was not officially named for the first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, until the twentieth century. Other notables who served at Fort Hamilton include Captain Robert E. Lee, Lieutenant Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson and Captain Abner Doubleday.

In 1861, during the Civil War, Fort Hamilton's garrison expanded. The fort provided troops to help put down the New York City draft riots of 1863. In the two World Wars, Fort Hamilton served as a major embarkation and separation center and later was a staging area for soldiers going to fight on the Korean peninsula. Recruits from all services have taken the oath at Fort Hamilton to defend our country during our conflicts, including Vietnam, Desert Storm, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq and the Global War on Terrorism.

Construction of the Verrazano Bridge in late 1950/early 1960 destroyed several historic structures, including Fort Lafayette, which was located near the Brooklyn shore. But in the same

period efforts toward saving the historical heritage of the Narrows increased. Part of the Army's contribution to preserving this heritage is in the Harbor Defense Museum on post.

In 1975, New York Area Command (NYAC) and Fort Hamilton, became a sub installation of Fort Dix under TRADOC and then in 1993, under FORSCOM. In October 1997, Fort Hamilton transitioned to the command of the Military District of Washington and in October 2002, came under the command of the Installation Management Agency, Northeast Region. Currently, Fort Hamilton is the only remaining active Army installation in the metropolitan New York City Area. Immediately following the horrific attack on our nation on September 11, 2001, Fort Hamilton began to support the National Guard mission in the rescue and recovery efforts at "Ground Zero." Fort Hamilton continues to provide support to those who serve our nation in the Global War on Terrorism in this vulnerable metropolitan area.

## **MISSION**

The US Army Garrison Fort Hamilton provides effective and efficient management of government resources to support mission readiness, improve infrastructure, preserve the environment, and enable the well-being and safety of service members, civilians, and family members. The US Army Garrison at Fort Hamilton manages the only active installation in the New York City metropolitan area. Fort Hamilton provides support to a population of over 40,000 Active Duty military, Reservists, Civilians, Retirees and other government personnel. Fort Hamilton supports varies of customers ranging from Federal, State and Local agencies. As our government continues downsizing to reduce resource requirements in the high cost New York City area, outlying DoD agencies have increasingly relied upon Ft Hamilton for training support and cost effective administrative facilities. Despite downsizing, our workforce is highly motivated and committed to exceeding the expectations of our military personnel and other customers we serve.

## **MAJOR UNITS/TENANTS**

77<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command  
New York Army National Guard Task Force Empire Shield  
1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Army Health Care Recruiting Team  
New York Military Entrance Processing Station  
New York City Recruiting Battalion  
North Atlantic Division, USACOE  
722<sup>nd</sup> Aeromedical Support Squadron  
Defense Intelligence Agency

## **POPULATION**

	<b>Authorized</b>
Military	622
Civilian	402
Contractor	112
Student	0
Other	388
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,524</b>