

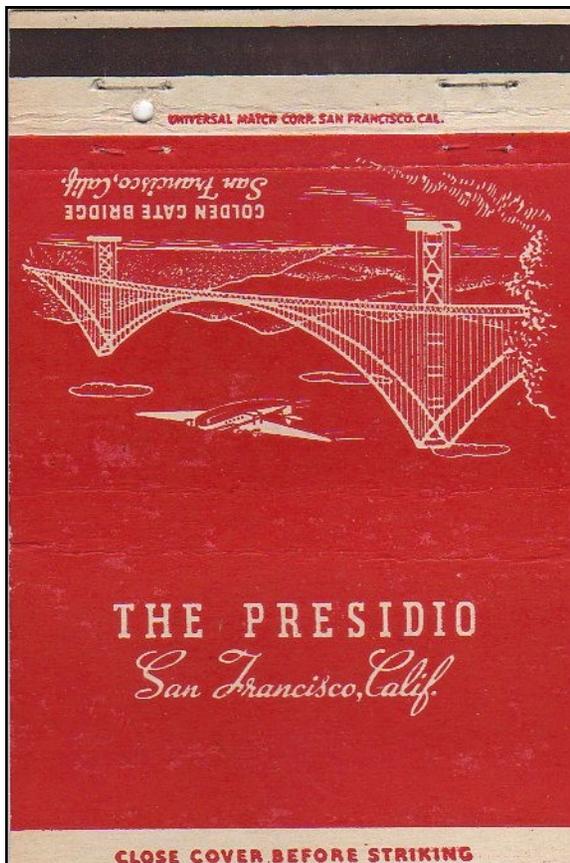


## The Presidio, San Francisco

The Presidio of San Francisco is currently a park on the northern tip of the San Francisco Peninsula in San Francisco, within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. It has been a fortified location since September 17th, 1776, when New Spain made it the military center of their colonization of the area. It passed to Mexico, which in turn passed it to the United States in 1848. As part of a military reduction program, Congress voted in 1989 to end the Presidio's status as an active military installation and on October 1, 1994, it was transferred to the National Park Service, ending 219 years of military use.

The Presidio was originally a Spanish Fort sited by Juan Bautista de Anza on March 28, 1776, built by a party led by José Joaquín Moraga later that year. In 1783, the Presidio's garrison numbered only 33 men. The Presidio was seized by the U.S. Military in 1846, at the start of the Mexican-American war. It officially opened in 1848, and became home to several Army headquarters and units, the last being the United States 6th Army. Several famous U.S. generals, such as William Sherman, George Henry Thomas, and John Pershing made their homes here. During its long history, the Presidio was involved in most of America's military engagements in the Pacific. Importantly, it was the assembly point for Army forces that invaded the Philippines in the Spanish-American War, America's first major military engagement in the Asia/Pacific region.

The Presidio was the center for defense of the Western U.S. during World War II. The infamous order to intern Japanese-Americans, including citizens, during World War II was signed at the Presidio. Until its closure in 1995, the Presidio was the longest continuously operated military base in the United States.



From the 1890s, the Presidio was home to the Letterman Army Medical Center. LAMC featured in every US foreign conflict during the 20th century by treating thousands of war wounded with high quality medical care. Part of the Presidio contains one of the last two remaining cemeteries in city limits, The San Francisco National Cemetery.

As part of the “Trails Forever” initiative, the Parks Conservancy, the National Park Service and the Presidio Trust are partnering to build a walking trail along the south side of the site, featuring interpretive signage about its history.

The Presidio also has four creeks that are currently being restored by park stewards and volunteers to expand the former extents of their riparian habitats. The creeks are Lobos and Dragonfly creeks, El Polin Spring, and Coyote Gulch.

[[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidio\\_of\\_San\\_Francisco](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidio_of_San_Francisco)]