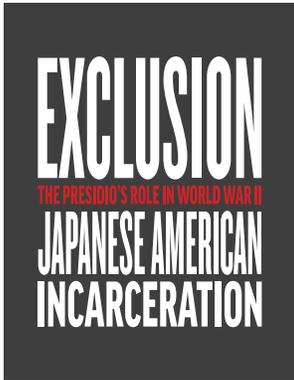


FACT SHEET NEW EXHIBITION AT THE PRESIDIO



EXCLUSION: The Presidio's Role in World War II Japanese American Incarceration is a free, year-long special exhibition held in the historic Presidio Officers' Club. It describes the pivotal role that the Presidio played in the forced removal and incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. This is the fourth special exhibition to be held at the Presidio Officers' Club. These annual exhibitions explore how and why the past matters and inspire civic engagement by fostering an understanding of the ways the Presidio's heritage is relevant today.

Opening Hours

- April 1, 2017 to March 2018
- Tuesdays to Sundays, 10 am to 6 pm
- Presidio Officers' Club, 50 Moraga Avenue, on the Presidio's Main Post
- **Admission is free**

Why now?

As headquarters of the Western Defense Command during World War II, the Presidio was the source of 108 civilian exclusion orders and other military directives that carried out President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066. The April 1 exhibition opening coincides with the exact date 75 years ago when the first civilian exclusion order was signed by Western Defense Commander Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt from his desk at the Presidio, and posted in San Francisco.

Content

The exhibition displays historic photographs, reproductions of seminal documents, and authentic artifacts illustrating these events. Visitors can engage in dialogue about such parallel contemporary social issues at "Your Voice Matters" stations located throughout the exhibition. Each station includes prompts that examine non-partisan issues of civic engagement in democratic society. Related programming by the Presidio and its exhibition collaborators stimulates deeper discussion and understanding of the issues.

Questions explored in the exhibition include: How did leaders arrive at the decision to incarcerate Japanese Americans, two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens? How did Japanese Americans and others respond to the violation of their civil liberties? And what, as a nation, have we learned that can help us address present-day issues such as mass incarceration, immigration reform, and racial profiling?

Community Input

Several collaborators were involved in the development of *EXCLUSION*, including the Fred T. Korematsu Institute and the National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS), both located in the Presidio. The Korematsu Institute and NJAHS provided input from concept development through script review. Both organizations have contributed objects and images to the exhibition and are collaborating on public programming and school program development throughout the duration of the exhibition.

Historical Background

Japanese immigration to the U.S. began in earnest in the 1890s as Japanese immigrants, often recruited by American companies, sought economic opportunities. Japanese immigrants faced the same racial prejudice that emerged in gold rush California toward Chinese immigrants. These attitudes spurred the passage of discriminatory laws that prohibited Japanese immigrants from becoming citizens

www.presidio.gov

103 Montgomery Street
P.O. Box 29052
San Francisco, CA 94129-0052
T (415) 561-5300

(1894), owning land (1913-1920), and immigrating to the United States (1924). In the 1940s, this racism fueled perceptions of Japanese Americans as a security threat at home and was used as justification for incarceration following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 that led to the United States entering World War II. This extreme approach to national security won out over more moderate voices in the bureaucratic struggle among the War Department, Justice Department, and Executive Office.

Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi, Minoru Yasui, and Mitsuye Endo challenged the constitutionality of the government's treatment of Japanese Americans during the war. The Supreme Court decided all four cases, ruling on narrow issues, and avoiding the question of whether mass incarceration was constitutional. In the 1970s, Japanese Americans began to tell their stories to heal, to correct the historical record, and to seek redress and reparations. The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 implemented a Presidential apology and \$20,000 to survivors, along with funding for education to teach the public about the mistake of Japanese American incarceration. During the redress movement, Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi, and Minoru Yasui's court cases were reopened and overturned with the discovery that the federal government had willfully withheld information during the 1940s Supreme Court cases.

Related Programs

Throughout the exhibition, free related programs are offered through the *Presidio Dialogues* series at the Presidio Officers' Club. Check the website for information and ongoing events; www.presidio.gov/exclusion. In addition, the **National Japanese American Historical Society** (NJAHS) presents the Children of the Camps Exhibition, February 1 – June 30, 2017, and a permanent exhibition at its MIS Historic Learning Center, 640 Old Mason Street, at Presidio's Crissy Field; <http://www.njahs.org>. Check the **Fred T. Korematsu Institute**'s website for ongoing events at www.korematsuinstitute.org.

Presidio Officers' Club

Opened in October 2014, the Presidio Officers' Club is San Francisco's most historic building and now the museum and cultural hub of the Presidio. First established in 1776, the adobe walls of the Officers' Club stand testament to California's beginnings. Throughout the 20th century, the renowned Presidio Officers' Club was a gathering place for Army brass and their families. Today, the many historians, archaeologists, educators, and interpretive experts at the Presidio bring history to life through exceptional exhibitions and free public programs, including live music and dance, talks, films, and crafts for kids. Field trips invite students to understand their world by examining the Presidio's fascinating heritage. To learn more, visit <http://www.presidio.gov/officers-club>.

Presidio Trust

The Presidio Trust is an innovative federal agency created to save the Presidio and employ a partnership approach to transform this former military post into a new kind of national park. Spanning 1,500 acres in a spectacular setting at the Golden Gate, the Presidio now operates without taxpayer support, is home to a community of residents and organizations, and offers unique recreation, hospitality, and educational programs to people throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and the world. To learn more, visit www.presidio.gov.

Press Contacts

Lisa Petrie, Presidio Trust: (m) (415) 707-9489 / lpetrie@presidiotrust.gov

Anne Abrams: (m) (415) 596-0902 / goanne@comcast.net

General Contacts

(t) (415) 561-4400

Heritage@presidiotrust.gov

www.presidio.gov/exclusion