

Boston Harbor Islands  
National Recreation Area



# 55th Massachusetts Infantry

**Fact: The 55th Massachusetts was the second unit of men of African descent raised in Massachusetts.**

The 55th Massachusetts Infantry regiment, an African American unit, was formed in May 1863 once the ranks of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry were filled. They fought not only to preserve the Union, but also to prove themselves as competent soldiers worthy of citizenship. After service in Florida and South Carolina, the 55th was mustered out on September 13, 1865 at Gallops Island in Boston Harbor.

**To learn more, visit:** [www.nps.gov/boha](http://www.nps.gov/boha)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE