

# Gulf Islands National Seashore



# The First to Fight

## The Louisiana Native Guards

Several thousand “free men of color” mustered into service in New Orleans. In early April, the 2nd Regiment boarded ships, landed at East Pascagoula, and took the village. Confederates launched a furious counterattack, but these Native Guards prevailed, becoming the first black unit on the Gulf Frontier to meet the enemy in battle.

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

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE