

# Gulf Islands National Seashore



No. 7

# The Pensacola Forts Avenue to Freedom

With the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, the military became an avenue to freedom. By 1864, Fort Pickens and Fort Barrancas, that had been built by slave labor, were now guarded by the 25th Regiment, US Colored Troops. Where free blacks had not long before fled Pensacola to preserve their freedom, now they came to fight for and secure it.

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

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