

PROJECT

Pointe Du Hoc
Normandy, France

CLIENT

Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas



Forward command post

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Pointe Du Hoc was a strategic site for the D-day invasion on June 6, 1944. The German army had built a heavily fortified forward command post on the cliffs overlooking a large expanse of the English Channel. Behind the command post were six 155 mm gun emplacements that could, upon receipt of coordinates from the command post, reach as far as Omaha Beach to the North and Utah Beach to the South. However, more than 50 years of wave action on the cliffs has jeopardized the stability of the forward command post.



Dual vibrating wire tiltmeters monitor rotations (± 10 arcsecond resolution) in either axis in the machine gun bunker ("tobruk") at the face of the cliff.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY ATKINSON-NOLAND

In 2006, Atkinson-Noland & Associates was retained to specify and install a sensitive monitoring system for the forward command post and a machine gun bunker at the face of the cliff. This included four vibrating wire tilt meters and a data acquisition system that radio linked to the visitor's center approximately 2 kilometers away. The data is read every minute, and 10-minute averages are calculated and recorded providing a highly accurate monitoring of the forward command post. Bridge Diagnostics of Boulder, Colorado helped develop the instrumentation package.



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