

March 26, 1908

U. S. NAVAL STATION
Key West, Fla.

No. 324-1908.

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Sir:

Captain Conrad H. Lanza, Captain and Quartermaster, U.S. A., Constructing Quartermaster, at Fort Taylor, Key West, Fla., has kindly sent me the correspondence concerning the War Department's dredging material from "Frankford Bank", for filling at Fort Taylor, Fla.

2. In this correspondence there is a fourth endorsement, dated March 16, 1908, in which the Secretary of the Navy states that there is no objection to the War Department dredging material from "Frankford Bank", for filling at Fort Taylor.

3. I am under the impression that the locality of "Frankford Bank" is a part of the Naval Reservation at Key West, being included in the title that reserves Fleming Key, and its adjacent shoals, and Man-of-War Harbor for a Naval Depot. I understand Man-of-War Harbor belongs to the Navy, and its adjacent shoals.

4. It is currently reported here (tho I have no official information to this effect) that, some years ago, squatters established a slaughter pen on "Frankford Bank", and the Commandant of this Naval Station compelled the squatters to remove, on the ground that "Frankford Bank" was a part of the Naval Reservation.

5. "Frankford Bank" is on the west side of Man-of-War Harbor, to which there is a 30 ft. channel to the sea. This Bank is opposite Fleming Key, and stretches along opposite the terminal docks of the Florida East Coast R. R. Co.

6. I respectfully request that, as "Frankford Bank" is a part of the Naval Reservation, the Commandant of this Naval Station may have cognizance and supervision of the dredging of the material for the Army from "Frankford Bank," in order that this dredging may be so conducted that it will incidentally enlarge Man-of-War Harbor and its channels. And also that such dredging may be done at such places where the removal of the mud will not interfere with the plans for filling Fleming Key, and the utilization of that Key as a torpedo depot.

7. The extensive work that was done by the Railroad Co., in their, so-called, scheme of making land by dredging mud banks all around Key West Harbor, has greatly enhanced the value of these mud banks for filling and grading purposes, and while the removal of some portions of "Frankford Bank" may be advantageous for the Navy, the indiscriminate removal of the mud from "Frankford Bank" may involve unnecessary additional expense to the Navy.

Very respectfully,



Commodore, U.S.N.,
Commandant.

The Honorable
the Secretary of the Navy,
through the Bureau of Navigation,
Navy Department, Washington, D.C.