



Department of Defense

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment

Cultural Resources Program

Linking Mission Support, Readiness, and Cultural Heritage Stewardship

As stewards of the Nation's largest inventory of Federally owned or controlled historic properties, the Department of Defense strives to maintain, promote, and interpret the resources it manages, both to support the Defense mission and to protect cultural heritage for future generations.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment oversees the Department of Defense (DoD) Cultural Resources (CR) Program. The CR Program advises the Secretary of Defense and DoD leadership on historic preservation policy to optimize performance and support mission assurance through responsible cultural resources stewardship and management. The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Environment & Energy Resilience is the DoD Federal Preservation Officer and represents the Secretary of Defense on the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP).

Cultural resources are mission supporting assets and DoD uses its historic properties every day. DoD lands are home to some of the Nation's most prized cultural resources that connect our Service members with their proud history and traditions. Cultural resources also provide a link between indigenous peoples who inhabited areas now under DoD management with their cultural, traditional, and sacred places.



The restored Watch Box at the Washington Navy Yard, DC, circa 1853, originally served as the check-in station for visitors. The Watch Box was restored as part of a Section 106 mitigation effort.

Cultural Resources Types

The DoD manages a wide variety of cultural resources on its installations, including historic buildings, structures, districts, sites, and objects. These resources tell the story of our shared history. They can have deep personal meaning, such as Arlington National Cemetery; or political and strategic operational value that is inherent in the Pentagon. Examples of other historic properties include:

- Military historic properties: buildings, structures, and districts, such as barracks, offices, mess halls, maintenance facilities, and flightlines; as well as landscapes, such as post cemeteries and parade grounds
- Native American sites: archaeological sites, such as villages, rock art, cooking structures, tool-making sites, and shell middens; and sacred sites, including burial mounds and religious ceremonial sites
- Other historic properties that can pre-date installations: farmsteads, family and church cemeteries, ranches, and historic archaeological sites, including building foundations, wells, and fences



Excavation at the McDonald Creek site, Fort Wainwright, AK, found bison bone fragments and charcoal artifacts dating back 13,300 years.



Trinity National Historic Landmark at White Sands Missile Range, NM, is the site of the first atomic explosion. The obelisk officially marks the site. The white structure covers a portion of trinitite, green solidified sand.

Cultural Resources Inventory

The DoD historic property portfolio includes 49 individual National Historic Landmarks, 3,171 National Historic Landmark contributing properties, as well as 2,396 individual and contributing historic structures listed in the National Register of Historic Places, over 15,000 historic assets determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, and over 132,000 recorded archaeological sites.

The majority of these resources are managed at the installation level by the Military Services working closely and consulting with various stakeholders, including American Indian and Alaska Native tribes, Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHO), State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPO), Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPO), and the ACHP. Consultation ensures DoD's effective compliance with applicable Federal laws, Executive orders, and regulations, while simultaneously supporting the Defense mission.

Cultural Resources Laws and Policies

DoD follows:

- Federal laws and their implementing regulations including: the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, 54 U.S.C. §§ 300101 *et seq.*; the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. §§ 3001 *et seq.*; and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, 16 U.S.C. §§ 470aa-470mm
- Executive Orders (EO) including: EO 13287, "Preserve America;" EO 13327, "Federal Real Property Asset

Management;" EO 13175, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments;" and EO 13007, "Indian Sacred Sites"

- DoD Instructions (DoDI) including: DoDI 4715.16, "Cultural Resources Management;" DoDI 4710.02, "DoD Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes;" and DoDI 4710.03, "Consultation with Native Hawaiian Organizations"

Partners

The CR Program works closely with the Military Services and other DoD Components to coordinate Department-wide policy efforts with external stakeholders including Indian tribes, Alaska Native tribes, NHOs, THPOs, SHPOs, and the ACHP to improve and streamline compliance that ensures readiness.

DoD Legacy Resource Management Program

The DoD's Legacy Resource Management Program provides funds for cultural and natural resources projects that support military readiness, enhance conservation objectives, and support three guiding principles: stewardship, leadership, and partnership. The Legacy Program has awarded over \$195 million in funding to approximately 600 cultural resources projects.



One of the Enlisted Men's Barracks, Building 222 at Warren Air Force Base, WY, was constructed between 1905 and 1910.

Contact

For more information about the DoD Cultural Resources program visit www.denix.osd.mil/cr

For more information about Legacy Resource Management Program visit www.denix.osd.mil/legacy