



Rock Art Study On DoD Property

Located in LANTOPS, EFA Chesapeake, and NORTHDIV
Areas of Responsibility

#94-021

Background

This project was designed to sensitize cultural resource managers in the Department of Defense (DoD) to the presence of rock art on installations in all regions of the United States. Although the surveys were conducted within five installations, the study included previously known information on all states from North Carolina to Maine, and from Pennsylvania to West Virginia eastward to the Atlantic coast. The Rock Art project partially fulfills cultural resource requirements imposed by NEPA, ARPA, and the NHPA.

Objective

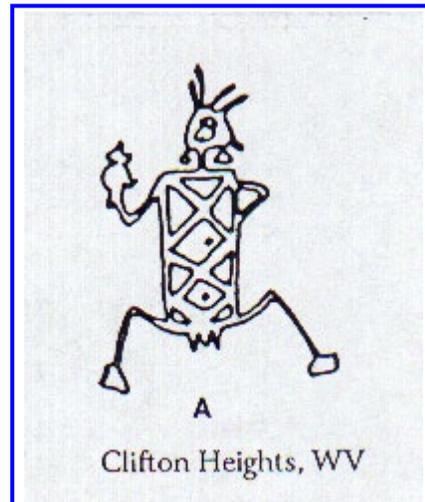
NSGA Winter Harbor, NCTE Cutler, the Massachusetts Military Reservation, Fort Indiantown Gap, and MCB Quantico were selected as the survey venues because the topography and geology of the installation contained exposed rock outcrops or large boulder deposits suitable for rock art. The goal was to examine a representative sample of the various topographic and ecological zones and to identify and characterize rock art sites within these sample survey areas. Although the major emphasis of this study focused upon Native American rock art, historic inscriptions and motifs were also recorded.

Summary of Approach

This study included a record and literature search to define the characteristics of rock art sites in the northeastern United States; development of a regional context and predictive model for northeastern rock art; a survey to determine whether rock art sites have been recorded on military installations; site visits to four military installations in the study area; analysis of potential impacts to rock art sites as a result of military, civilian, or natural activity; and development of management recommendations to ensure preservation and conservation of rock art sites. Ultimately, this study intended to provide a reference data base and present techniques for finding, recording, and preserving rock art sites in future cultural resource management efforts on DoD installations within the study region.

Three distinct environmental zones within two installations were sampled. These included the outer coastal zone at NCTE Cutler; a transitional bay shore zone at both NCTE Cutler and NSGA Winter Harbor's Corea unit; and a protected tidal zone, again at NCTE Cutler. Out of a total shoreline of approximately 8 miles of shoreline, an estimated 2.7 miles were traversed by

pedestrian reconnaissance; the remaining shoreline areas at NCTE Cutler were subjected to windshield surveys. In addition, two previously reported rock art sites in Machias Bay, at Holmes Point and Hog Island, were visited. All of the areas surveyed contained naturally occurring rock outcrops and ledges that might have provided suitable surfaces for pictographs or petroglyphs during prehistoric times.



Benefit

This report benefits military installations and other archaeologists by providing a predictive model for locating, identifying, and interpreting rock art in the northeastern United States. Prior to this study identification efforts varied widely among the states in the study region and identification of rock art on military installations had not been a priority item for cultural resource surveys.

Accomplishments

The Legacy Rock Art Inventory completed an overview of rock art sites on DoD installations; developed an inventory and identification plan for those installations where the potential for rock art sites is high; and created a management plan for such sites and installations that incorporates conservation, recordation, and public education programs.

For More Information Please Visit:

<https://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/ES-Programs/Conservation/RockArt/rockart.html>