



Recording the Cold War: Identifying and Collecting Cold War Resources Data on Military Installations

Legacy
Project
07-285

Background:

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) has large numbers of Cold War properties (all facilities constructed between September 1945 and December 1991) reaching the 50-year mark that require evaluation for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Pursuant to Section 110 of the NHPA, the DoD also has the responsibility to preserve the historic properties they administer. In order to comply with these federal mandates, the DoD recognizes the need to inventory its large number of Cold War properties, but also realizes that it must establish guidance to ensure the task is completed in a consistent and effective manner. This project identifies and compiles available data on Cold War resources, a critical first step in developing a programmatic approach to managing them effectively.

Objective:

This study had three goals: (1) identify DoD Cold War facilities and associated documentation at a select number of bases; (2) create a systematic approach for identifying, compiling, and analyzing available data; and (3) prepare time and cost metrics on the process. This demonstration project provides an opportunity to define clear data-collection methods and establish potential costs to complete the process at DoD installations across the country.

Summary of Approach:

Statistical Research, Inc., conducted this project at four U.S. Air Force bases (AFBs)—Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona; Hill AFB, Utah; Kirtland AFB, New Mexico; and Vandenberg AFB, California—as part of an Air Force initiative that resulted from a Cold War workshop held in Tucson, Arizona, in February 2006 to develop management strategies for Cold War properties. The methods of this study can be described by five tasks: identification, collection, compilation, analysis, and documentation. The primary process used to collect available data and test methods consisted of a data call and on-site research and methods testing. Data were acquired from the cultural resources management, real property, and geographic information system staff at each installation and also from the history office at Hill AFB.

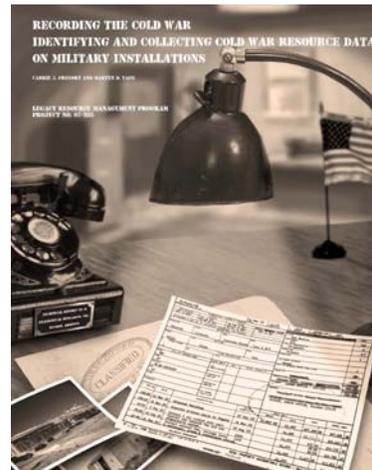
Benefit:

The DoD should establish guidance to ensure the inventory of Cold War properties is completed in a consistent, timely, and cost-effective manner. Identifying and compiling the data is a first step and provides a basis

for DoD planning of additional data collection, permanent data storage, and data access. The second step is making the data available to installation-level cultural resources managers across the DoD so that the inventory and evaluation processes are more time- and cost-efficient. Knowing what information is available on Cold War properties will help the DoD and individual cultural resources managers determine which properties are significant, which properties require additional documentation, and how many examples of a particular property type should be considered for NRHP eligibility. It will save the DoD money and ensure protection of those properties that are truly unique and significant.

Accomplishments:

The Cold War data collection report, *Recording the Cold War: Identifying and Collecting Cold War Resource Data on Military Installations*, provides clear methods, potential pitfalls, and cost and time metrics.



The study provides Cold War facility data, bibliographic information, and the content, format, and locations of supporting documentation for four bases. Recommendations include lessons learned that should be considered for follow-on projects and potential future work that expands on and improves the data-collection process.

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