



Airplanes, Combat and Maintenance Crews, and Air Bases *The World War II and Early Cold War Architectural Legacy of Holloman Air Force base (ca. 1942-1962)*

93-0786

Background:

The cultural resources program on Holloman Air Force Base (HAFB) was established in 1992 with a focus on proactive, rather than reactive, management of the resources. Although the majority of early work involved cultural resources inventory of HAFB-administered land, an effort was also made to compile a comprehensive history of this land and the base through a series of research projects. This research project was made possible through the Department of Defense (DoD) Legacy Resource Management Program (Legacy).

Objective:

The HAFB played an important role as a training base for Heavy and Very Heavy World War II bomber crews. In addition, it was a facility for missile and rocket research during the early Cold War. The identification and documentation of facilities associated with these events have provided valuable insight on the early military use of Alamogordo Army Air Field and HAFT, as well as initiating steps to document, protect, and preserve this legacy of the USAF. The Historic Architectural Assessment project has also continued the process of providing initial evaluations of all facilities on the base constructed during WW II and the Cold War. This architectural assessment can also be used successfully on other DoD installations.

Summary of Approach:

In 1995 and 1996, architectural assessments were conducted on 34 buildings and structures to determine their potential eligibility for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places. These resources were built on Holloman Air Force Base between 1942 and 1962. Eighteen World War II facilities, all that existed on the base, and 16 early Cold War properties (including all those from the 1940s except for housing units) were evaluated using Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record Level IV documentation. Facility assessment forms were completed and National Register of Historic Places eligibility recommendations were provided for each property based on historic context, integrity, and its contribution to significant archaeological sites. In addition, all previously conducted projects that dealt with either facility assessments and evaluations or provided historic data on the 34 properties were discussed to provide an overall review of the type of work completed on Holloman Air Force Base to date.

Benefit:

This study illustrates the results of the initial goal set forth in 1992 of compiling a comprehensive base cultural overview. The results of the current assessment, as well as other projects conducted on HAFB, are applicable on other installations. This project will encourage other bases to begin the process of documenting and reporting on the many unique architectural and archaeological resources located on DoD installations, thus providing a better understanding of the USAF during these important periods of U.S. history. Most of the World War II facilities have been heavily modified and lack integrity. In contrast, the Cold War facilities are highly intact, and a number of missile testing and instrumentation complexes in the remote areas of the base provide a feeling for that time when the base was one of the primary missile development and research facilities in the United States.



F-102 Delta Dagger

1950's -- The primary mission of the F-102 "Delta Dagger" was to intercept and destroy enemy aircraft. It was the world's first supersonic all-weather jet interceptor and the USAF's first operational delta-wing aircraft.

Accomplishments:

At the completion of the project, 17 properties were recommended eligible for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places (14 Cold War and three World War II) and 17 as not eligible (15 World War II and two Cold War).

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