



# Blueprints for the Citizen Soldier: A Nationwide Historic Context Study of United States Army Reserve Centers

06-295

## Background:

The United States Army Reserve (USAR) maintains hundreds of Reserve Centers within the continental United States, Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico. The majority of these Reserve Centers were built in the post World War II era, in response to the Cold War era troop build-up. The increasing role of USAR in current military conflicts has brought about the need for further expansion and reorganization of both troops and the associated support facilities. Over the next ten years, a large number of Army Reserve Centers will reach the chronological threshold for mandatory National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility assessment. Little information exists on the National Register eligibility of Reserve Centers, as the majority of USAR properties were built after 1950, and no nationwide approach to their assessment has been undertaken. Without a comprehensive context study and plan, the Department of the Army continues to be placed under considerable burden to meet mission requirements and its responsibilities under sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act.



Courtesy of National Archives II, College Park, MD

## Objective:

The overall purpose of this study is to provide the USAR with a baseline of knowledge and research that can be utilized extensively throughout USAR. The context study will provide improved uniformity in National Register determinations and enhance the potential for integration of cultural and natural resources programs. As a primary source of information and guidance for future Section 106 and Section 110 compliance, the context study will encourage higher standards of historic property stewardship. A nationwide context will draw upon existing research and combine it into a cohesive document that can be used to facilitate future compliance documentation.

## Summary of Approach:

This study examines the history and development of the USAR. Rather than focusing on operational activities, this study tells the story of the USAR through the buildings and facilities associated with training activities at Army Reserve Centers throughout the nation. To aid National Register of Historic Places evaluations, it identifies historical trends, events, and individuals that influenced the development of the USAR, and it identifies the kinds of buildings and structures that were built, some of which may have significance as good examples of a style, type, or method of construction and/or are associated with the work of an important designer or architect. The study identifies and groups the types of properties that are associated with these aspects of history and identifies the character-defining features that must be present for an Army Reserve Center to have significance as a good example of its type.

## Benefit:

This study provides the framework for evaluating the relative significance of Army Reserve Centers from a national perspective and provides the basis for assessing the eligibility of Army Reserve Centers for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

## Accomplishments:

The report summarizes trends in the USAR's current inventory of buildings and delineates the primary standard plans developed in the post World War II era. In addition, the report establishes general guidelines for evaluating the eligibility and integrity of Reserve Centers for inclusion in the NRHP. Finally, the report sets forth recommendations for future survey and research to better understand and evaluate individual Army Reserve Centers.

## Contact Information:

Joseph Tomberlin  
Historic Architecture and Cultural Resources Coordinator  
Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc.  
558 Spring Creek Way  
Marietta, GA 30068  
Phone: (678) 492-8903  
Email: Tomberlin\_Joseph@bah.com