



Regional GIS And Electronic Data Management System - Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Cultural Resource Management Program

**Project #
04-212**

Background:

Navy Region Mid-Atlantic has established a Regional Geographic Information System (GIS) that contains data on a variety of media. This project creates the Cultural Resources component to the Regional GIS. Existing information on significant cultural resources (built environment and archaeological resources) in the region is being consolidated into this one database and will be readily-accessible to Navy personnel via a web-based system. The GIS information also will be shared with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR), the designated State Historic Preservation Office for Virginia, to assist in their Section 106 reviews of proposed Navy undertakings.

Objective:

The major objectives of the study are to:

- a. Consolidate within the Regional GIS all information on known cultural resources (both the built environment and archeological resources) at Naval Installations located in the Hampton Roads, Virginia area.
- b. Develop a state-of-the-art, electronic tool utilizing GIS to provide up-to-date information (both spatial and narrative) for personnel involved with operation, management, and maintenance of historic properties.
- c. Provide visual information alerting planners and designers of potential cultural resource constraints.
- d. Partner with the VDHR in order to obtain information on significant resources adjacent to Naval installations that could be affected by proposed Navy actions, as well as provide VDHR with access to the GIS system to facilitate their Section 106 reviews of Navy undertakings.

Summary of Approach:

This tasking is designed to consolidate cultural resource information from a variety of sources into the Regional GIS. The information will be utilized by Navy personnel as well as VDHR staff to facilitate management and protection of significant cultural resources. The product will be a spatially-enabled compilation of geographic, historical, administrative and descriptive physical data about potentially eligible, eligible and National Register of Historic Places-listed resources. Data sources include existing non-spatial electronic databases, paper record files, past studies, and existing mapping. The GIS product will consolidate inventory information for Hampton Roads Naval installations.

Both spatial and narrative information will be available for each historic building and each archeological

site. The type of information available includes: historic district boundaries; building-specific data (including relevant photographs and design drawings); archaeological sensitivity maps (showing the extent of previous archaeological surveys and the probability of the presence of additional resources); archaeological site data (including site boundaries and additional survey requirements, site context, and artifacts); and records of pertinent consultation correspondence. All geographic information is being developed in a structure consistent with the latest approved spatial data standards.

Benefit:

Availability of Cultural Resource GIS information to Navy personnel and VDHR will greatly enhance and streamline planning and review actions. This initiative also will further foster the partnership between the Mid-Atlantic Region and VDHR.

This study provides a model that can easily be used by other DoD Regions/activities for improving efficiencies in managing cultural resources and expediting regulatory review of undertakings.

Accomplishments:

The Cultural Resource GIS database structure has been built, and the geographic and attribute data has been loaded. Existing studies are being scanned and are being linked to the GIS database. Navy Cultural Resource personnel are currently testing the database. The Navy's contractor is working with VDHR to establish mechanisms to facilitate data sharing.

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This factsheet and the forthcoming project final report can be found online at:

<https://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/Library/NCR/archaeology.html>

