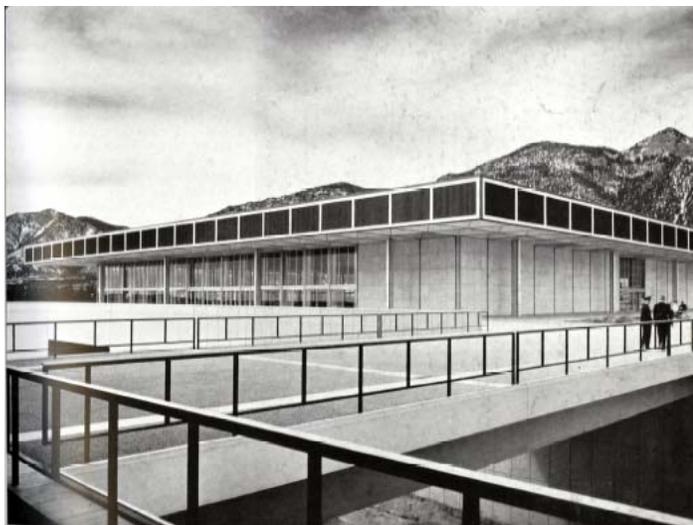




## Background:

During the Cold War era, the Department of Defense (DoD) undertook a dramatic building campaign to keep pace with the demands of the military buildup. While standardized and prefabricated military buildings made up a significant portion of the work, projects that required a unique architectural and engineering approach also were undertaken. The aim of this project was to explore the role of architecture and engineering (A/E) firms in custom-designed projects. Currently, a large number of these Cold War resources are less than fifty years old. However, over the next ten years, a large number of these resources will be of age for mandatory National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility assessment. Prior to this study, little information existed on the role of A/E firms in this area of military construction, and as a result, analysis related to NRHP eligibility under Criterion C has been lacking an important context.



Dining Hall at the Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO (Nauman, *On the Wings of Modernism*, 2004).

## Objective:

By detailing the role and makeup of key A/E firms during the Cold War, the project aims to inform evaluation of NRHP eligibility under Criterion C, the evaluation required by Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The report provides a biographical narrative and catalog of each selected firm's military work, demonstrating the range of commissions for custom-designed singular buildings. As a result, the project provides a necessary resource to aid NRHP evaluation efforts for Cold War era military construction.

## Summary of Approach:

The project focuses on custom-designed resources constructed during the Cold War period (1946-1989). Primary research followed the following process: (1) identify prominent architecture and engineering firms during the Cold War period; (2) identify prominent architects and engineers within each firm and the overall design philosophy associated with the firm; (3) identify the types of projects undertaken by each firm, such as buildings associated with weapons development and testing, military administrative and residential buildings, and also prominent non-military buildings; (4) investigate the process for selecting and commissioning private architecture and engineering firms to construct DoD buildings during the Cold War era and (5) address overall conclusions.

## Benefit:

The project provides the framework for future NRHP-eligibility assessments and evaluations for significance of architect- and engineer-designed buildings on DoD installations. By highlighting and examining the roles of these firms during the Cold War, the project aids NRHP evaluations relating to Criterion C for properties that possess distinctive design/construction elements and represent the work of a prominent architect or engineer. Overall, the intention of the project is to provide DoD with a useful tool in assessing the role of individual architectural and engineering firms during major building campaigns associated with the Cold War.

## Accomplishments:

This project was funded in FY 2009 and completed in FY 2010. To date, the project includes a biographical narrative and catalog of Cold War-era military work for 107 selected A/E firms.

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