



Programmatic Approaches to the Management of Cold War Historic Properties

Project # 13-701

Background:

The Department of Defense (DoD) manages the world's largest specialized real property inventory, counting more than 557,000 facilities (buildings, structures, and linear structures), located on over 5,000 sites worldwide and covering over 27.7 million acres. A significant portion of this global portfolio is comprised of DoD's vast inventory of military, scientific and technical assets related to the Cold War Era (1945-1991). To meet the regulatory obligations under the National Historic Preservation Act, DoD has spent more than two decades surveying its Cold War assets, commissioning hundreds of studies and assessments by professional historians to evaluate this inventory. Beginning in fiscal year 1992, nationwide historic contexts on major programs (known as "missions") of the Cold War were funded through the Legacy Resource Management Program, and hundreds, if not thousands, of historical studies have been completed since then.

Objective:

To analyze existing Cold War documentation and complete a strategic critical stakeholders/consulting parties meeting in order to develop a programmatic approach for the consistent management of DoD Cold War resources. The plan is to reduce case-by-case, Section 106 compliance.

Summary of Approach:

Legacy Resource Management Program, Project #13-701 comprised four tasks: 1) Synthesis; 2) Workshop; 3) Compliance Process; and 4) Implementation. To complete the synthesis, the Project Team collected and reviewed available reports, context studies, histories, and other related documents in order to determine what Cold War Mission-Related assets had been surveyed and documented. During this task, the Project Team consulted with the leads of other Cold War projects (Legacy-funded, Military Service-funded, National Park Service (NPS)-funded, and others) to capture a status on their findings and projected paths forward. The resulting product was an annotated bibliography, which was provided to workshop attendees (stakeholders and consulting parties) prior to the event as baseline information. The workshop was the second task of the project, and focused on identifying programmatic approaches to the management of Cold War mission-related historic properties. Developing

recommendations on next steps in compliance process, based on the results of the workshop, was the third task.

Benefit:

The intent of this project is to reduce the burden of case-by-case compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA at the installation and regional echelons, and reduce the potential for high-profile/high-visibility projects at the Service HQ and OSD levels. The planned reduction is to be realized through a program alternative approach as authorized by 36 CFR 800.14. Reducing the time that staff, senior staff and leadership spend on Section 106 projects will result in a cost savings. This approach will also assist cultural resource managers, real property managers, and facility managers in proactively supporting retrofits to existing buildings for energy projects, to aid in footprint reduction efforts and facility consolidation needs, and to support facility disposal requirements.

Accomplishments:

The outcomes of the workshop include management categories of Cold War mission-related properties, recommendations for a variety of management approaches specific to each category, and next steps for developing those approaches.

Management approaches identified during the workshop include (1) developing a prototype programmatic agreement for streamlining DoD Section 106 compliance for certain types of undertakings; (2) conducting a gap analysis of certain categories of Cold War mission-related properties to identify appropriate property-specific or programmatic approaches and Program Alternatives (pursuant to 36 CFR 800.14) for management, (3) developing a Program Alternative for the management and treatment of utilitarian historic properties, and (4) maintaining the standard Section 106 process (36 CFR Part 800.3 through .6) for other categories.

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