President Obama Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act

In October 2016, President Obama released a message celebrating the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act. In his release, President Obama stated, “I am pleased to join in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act. America’s history is rooted in places—from rolling hills to vast plains to coastlines along the sea—that reflect the diversity of our people and the beliefs that have shaped our Nation. Fifty years ago, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the National Historic Preservation Act into law as a tribute to our storied past—giving life to the cultural foundations of our country and enabling our people to gain insights into generations before them. The Act helps Americans serve as stewards of their history and preserve vital places in their communities. In marking this special milestone, we are reminded that though our journey to live up to our highest ideals remains incomplete, we can always look to the lessons of history as we chart our course.”

View the statement online at: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservation/upload/president-statement-50th-anniversary.pdf.

Final Obama White House Tribal Nations Conference


This year’s Conference – the President’s eighth and final of his Presidency – marks the historic progress his Administration has made to strengthen the nation-to-nation relationship and build a more prosperous and resilient Indian Country. The President and members of his Cabinet discussed a range of issues important to tribal leaders, with an emphasis on ways the Federal government can continue to strengthen the nation-to-nation relationship and ensure that progress in Indian Country endures for years to come. Despite the incredible work completed in Indian Country over the past eight years, challenges still persist for Native Americans. The Tribal Nations Conference brought together tribal leaders and agency officials to identify key issues to address during the next chapter of the nation-to-nation relationship. These conversations will serve as a platform for tribal leaders to develop relationships with the Federal government that will serve them in the coming weeks, months, and years.

DoD Native Hawaiian Cultural Communications and Consultation Course

A DoD Native Hawaiian Cultural Communications and Consultation Course (NHCCCC) will occur February 8 - 9, 2017, in Hawaii, at the Hickam Officers Club. Native Hawaiian specialists in local history, culture, intercultural communications, consultation, and legal experts will teach this introductory training. The course begins with registration at 0730 and classes conducted from 0800-1700. You must attend the entire 2-day training to receive a certificate of completion.

This free introductory course provides valuable information for DoD employees whose work may have an effect on Native Hawaiians and for those already working with Native Hawaiians and Native Hawaiian Organizations. The training will include:
- A Native Hawaiian perspective on Hawaiian history;
- Visits to the Halealoha Haleamau Burial Vault and Loko Pa’aiau Fish Pond with cultural interpreters;
- Introduction to Hawaiian concepts and culture;
- Insight into resources of special importance to Hawaiians;
- Review of Federal laws, regulations, and policies that impact DoD consultation relationships with Native Hawaiian Organizations;
- Background on responsibilities for implementing the DoD Policy on Consultation With Native Hawaiian Organizations, DoDI 4710.03;
- Intercultural communications and relationship building techniques; and
- Discussion of strategies and practical steps for consulting with Native Hawaiians, including the perspectives of Native Hawaiians and experienced military personnel.

If you would like to register, please email the following information to Mr. Chris Allen at william.c.allen240.ctr@mail.mil, as soon as possible, but no later than Friday, January 20, 2017:
1) your first and last name;
2) military branch;
3) installation location and mailing address;
4) rank, if applicable;
5) job title;
6) status as a DoD employee or contractor;
7) email address;
8) telephone number;
9) your current role in/experience with consultation, if any;
and
10) what specific information or skill you seek from the course.

We will confirm your approved registration via email and then provide you with additional information about parking and other related logistics. Do not make any travel arrangements until you have receipt of approval as classroom space is limited.

For more information, contact Elisia V. Lukasik, Director, Community Relations, U.S. Pacific Command, 808-477-6282 email: elisia.lukasik@pacom.mil or Terri Kelly, DoD contractor and course manager, 202-591-5434, or email: Theresa.m.kelly32.ctr@mail.mil or tkelly@keresnm.com.


The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) adopted a plan to support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Declaration). In the plan, the ACHP commits to raising awareness about the Declaration in the historic preservation community and incorporating the principles and aspirations of the Declaration into ACHP initiatives and programs. As part of the effort to raise awareness, the ACHP also committed to developing guidance on the intersection of the process under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) and the Declaration. The ACHP recently released an information paper that presents general information about the Declaration and the Section 106 process to give Federal agencies, Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations (NHOs), and other interested parties ways in which the two can be integrated in order to enhance the protection of historic properties. While the Declaration is not legally binding or a statement of current international law, the ACHP believes it has both a moral and political force and generally supports the purposes of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Section 106 process.

Find the full information paper online at: http://www.achp.gov/docs/un-declaration.pdf.
National Park Service Tribal Historic Preservation Program 2016 Annual Report: *Expanding Partnerships in a Second Century of Stewardship*

*From the National Park Service*

The National Park Service (NPS) Tribal Historic Preservation Program has issued the 2016 Annual Report: *Expanding Partnerships in a Second Century of Stewardship*. The report gives an overview of the Tribal Historic Preservation program and program funding, in addition to a description of Tribal Heritage Grants awarded in 2016. The report also highlights the crucial work that Tribal Heritage Grant recipients and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers do to preserve and protect resources and traditions in their communities. The report features examples of oral history, documentary film, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, K-12 education, and STEM initiatives in Native communities that were funded in part by NPS Historic Preservation Funds. The report also includes a feature on Loretta Jackson-Kelly, the Secretary of the Interior’s 2015 Historic Preservation Award Winner, as well as an interview about an interagency Native Youth in Historic Preservation initiative spearheaded by the Advisory Council.


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**Edwards Air Force Base Cleanup Avoids Historic Battleship Target**

*Excerpts from “Munitions Investigations Avoids Historic Battleship Target,“ Report to Stakeholders, July 2016, Vol. 21, No. 2., Air Force Civil Engineer Center.*

As part of a cleanup investigation, Edwards Air Force Base, California, restoration experts found and destroyed live munitions in the subsurface of a bombing site used by the Army Air Corps in the 1930s and 1940s. Results from the investigation will help the Air Force determine what types of cleanup alternatives will best address the munitions site. The investigation avoided an old target shaped like a battleship because of its historic significance. The battleship target was originally 600 feet long by 100 feet wide and outlined with a 3- to 5-foot wide chalk line. It represented a full-size battleship from the 1930s. “We believe the battleship target is a part of East Camp, which was established in the 1930s as a bombing and gunnery range,” said base archaeologist Roscoe Loetzerich. The Air Force is currently pursuing the evaluation of East Camp and the battleship target as a historic district for potential listing on the National Register of Historic Places.


SHIP IN THE DESERT —
A still image taken from a 1936 news reel shows the battleship-shaped outline of a 1930s era target Edwards experts believe was located next to Site AL504 (Source: “Bullseye Bombing,” Pathe Gazette [British Pathe], 1936).


Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires Federal agencies to identify and assess the effects of their actions on historic properties, including indigenous landscapes considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Often information on these places and landscapes can only be gained through consultation with Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations (NHOs). This is important for Federal agencies participating in the Section 106 process and the consultants they work with carrying out cultural resource management (CRM) surveys, or in the context of research projects, because improving knowledge and understanding of indigenous landscapes is critical for a more complete identification and evaluation of historic properties required by the law. Beyond legal requirements, more inclusive interpretations also help develop stronger relationships between consulting parties and serve to educate agencies, other parties, and the public.

While non-indigenous landscapes exist across the country and need to be considered as well, this information paper focuses on indigenous landscapes. Using three examples from different areas of the United States, this paper addresses the topic of identifying and considering the role of indigenous places and landscapes in Section 106, as well as in non-Section 106 contexts. It is meant to serve as a starting point for discussions within and among Federal agencies, cultural resource practitioners, researchers, and indigenous peoples on this topic.

Find the full paper online at: http://www.achp.gov/docs/Information%20on%20Cultural%20Landscapes.pdf.

Update and Status of the 2012 Sacred Sites MOU

Joe Sarcinella, Senior Advisor and Liaison for Native American Affairs for the Office of the Secretary of Defense

On December 6, 2012, the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Energy, and Interior, along with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to improve the protection of Native American sacred sites on federally managed land. Through collaboration and consultation, the signatory agencies have worked to raise awareness about Native American sacred sites and the importance of maintaining their integrity. The tools being developed under this MOU are helping agencies meet their legal responsibilities to federally recognized tribes. To date, the MOU working group has created the following and distributed throughout the Federal government:

1. A policy review of all relevant/applicable laws, regulations and policies;
2. An information paper for stakeholders outside the Federal government explaining the subject matter and the MOU and directing where to find further information;
3. A policy statement on confidentiality explaining the cultural significance of protecting the knowledge and location of these sites from non-tribal members; and,
4. A comprehensive online training module for Federal employees and contractors available for free to the public.

The Secretary of the Interior chairs the White House Council on Native American Affairs, which is comprised of each of the Cabinet Secretaries and the Chairman of the ACHP. The White House Council adopted the exemplary work products created under the MOU. The executive leadership overseeing the work developed under the MOU, in coordination with the White House Council on Native American Affairs, determined that further work products must be developed specifically for senior leadership and the inclusion of new signatories to further promote interagency collaboration and coordination through the establishment of management practices that may include collaborative stewardship; therefore, this MOU was extended by the signatories for eight years until December 31, 2024.

For more information see https://www.fs.fed.us/spf/tribalrelations/sacredsitesmou.shtml and http://www.achp.gov/sacredsiteprotection.html
Site-based Management of Cultural Resources versus Landscape-scale Management

Adapted from “The Society for American Archaeology’s Task Forces on Landscape Policy Issues,” Advances in Archaeological Practice, Jeffrey Altschul, May 2016, Society for American Archaeology.

The Society for American Archaeology (SAA) sees Federal land-managing agencies shifting from site-based to landscape-scale management of cultural resources, particularly with respect to archaeological resources. The SAA sees an increased focus to utilize “programmatic approaches that consider archaeological resources on a regional or landscape level.” SAA task forces, established in 2014, convened on three issues related to landscape-scale cultural resource management: survey data quality, durability, and use; incorporating archaeological resources in regional land-use plans; and valuing archaeological resources. Articles based on the task force reports were published in the May 2016 issue of Advances in Archaeological Practice. The overview to these three articles notes that they will “help advance cultural resources management (CRM) by improving the quality of survey data, bolstering the consideration of cultural resources in the regional planning, and stimulating a discussion of how best to rank archaeological resources in terms of a variety of values and to use these ranks to prioritize possible management outcomes.” Some archaeologists employed by Federal land-managing agencies “view [these issues] as critically important to the management of archaeological resources at regional or landscape scales and realize that the way in which their agency resolves them will in no small way shape the future of CRM in the United States.”

The SAA provides these reports free as a resource to government, nongovernment, and professional organizations: http://saa.publisher.ingentaconnect.com/content/saa/aap/2016/00000004/00000002/art00001;jsessionid=9p8ra8gogq37.alexandra.

National Congress of American Indians Looks for New Opportunities with the Scheduling of Tribal Consultation Sessions


The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) recently participated in tribal consultation sessions with the Department of the Interior, the Department of Justice, and the Department of the Army. These Federal departments set a tribal consultation schedule in the fall to address longstanding concerns of ensuring meaningful tribal input into infrastructure-related reviews and decisions that impact tribal communities, resources, and lands, as outlined by their September 9, 2016 Joint Statement.

The U.S. Departments of Justice, Army, and Interior invited representatives from all 567 federally recognized tribes to participate in formal, government-to-government consultations on how Federal decision-making on infrastructure projects can better allow for timely and meaningful tribal input. Formal tribal consultations took place in six regions of the country, from October 25 through November 21, 2016.

New ACHP FAQs: Protecting Sensitive Information about Historic Properties under Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act

Excerpts from the “Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s Frequently Asked Questions on Protecting Sensitive Information about Historic Properties under Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act.”

Over the past several years, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) has received numerous questions about how exactly Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) works and how officials can utilize its protection in the course of Section 106 review and other preservation activities. Section 304 authorizes Federal agencies and other public officials to withhold sensitive information about historic properties in such situations from public disclosure and thereby prevent harm to those properties. There are several reasons for not releasing information about the location, character, or ownership of historic properties. For example, it may help prevent looting or disturbance of a site, or it may help ensure continued use of a site or area by traditional religious practitioners. As part of good planning practice, a Federal agency should also begin thinking early about how it will manage and disseminate information.

The new guidance builds upon the very successful webinar offered by the ACHP on Section 304 of the NHPA. In developing this guidance, the ACHP coordinated closely with the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places to ensure these Frequently Asked Questions identify the most commonly asked questions and provide helpful guidance to Section 106 practitioners, as well as members of the public regarding what information may be withheld from disclosure, under what circumstances, and for what reasons.

Find the new guidance at: http://www.achp.gov/304guidance.html.

New Treaty Rights Memorandum of Understanding

Joe Sarcinella, Senior Advisor and Liaison for Native American Affairs for the Office of the Secretary of Defense

In 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Chair of the Council’s Environmental, Climate Change, and Natural Resources Subgroup, initiated discussions about how to integrate consideration of tribal treaty rights into decision-making processes and policies and to share tools to analyze how treaty rights could be affected by agencies’ actions. In 2016, the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and Army Civil Works were part of the Subgroup that drafted the Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Interagency Coordination and Collaboration for the Protection of Tribal Treaty Rights (MOU) as a means to encourage collaboration among member agencies. DoD manages millions of acres of land, and in some locations, tribes retain treaty rights to the natural resources on those lands. On November 8, 2016, Secretary of Defense Carter signed the MOU, joining the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, US Department of Agriculture, Department of Interior, Department of Justice, Environmental Protection Agency, Council on Environmental Quality, and the Department of Commerce as signatories working to build awareness among the Federal government regarding legal obligations regarding tribal treaty rights.

Find the MOU at: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-12/documents/mou_treat_rights_12-01-16_final.pdf

National Park Service Releases National Historic Preservation Act 50-year Anniversary Toolkit

The National Park Service (NPS) recently released a discussion guide on the National Historic Preservation Act to serve as an introduction to the legislation. The NPS guide focuses on key points, including an overview of the legislative content, the National Register of Historic Places, the National Historic Landmark Program, Section 106 compliance process, Section 110 documentation requirements, and Federal preservation programs, including Tribal Historic Preservation Offices.

The full toolkit is available for download and review at: https://www.nps.gov/articles/upload/NHPAToolKit.pdf
Section 106 Success Story: Wright-Patterson Air Force Base’s Building 12


Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) is one of the largest and most diverse Air Force bases and is home to numerous organizations. In 2005, the Department of Defense Base Realignment and Closure process identified WPAFB to receive an increase in personnel, which required an evaluation of space allocation on the base. Building 12 was chosen to support the incoming personnel. The Air Force completely restored and rehabilitated the building to a historically appropriate appearance, both inside and out, while meeting current security and antiterrorism/force protection (AT/FP) requirements.

A primary goal of the restoration was to achieve a United States Green Building Council Silver Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating. WPAFB’s objective was to maintain the historic integrity of the facility while incorporating both LEED principles. The restoration included two main areas: exterior cleaning and repair; and cleaning and repair to the entrance portico, vestibule, and rotunda. Original construction drawings and historic photographs were reviewed, and extensive field investigations were conducted to confirm original conditions. All of the restoration work was done in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (SOI Standards) for a total cost of $13 million. The Ohio State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurred with the determination of no adverse effects to historic properties.

Often federal agencies opt to build new facilities to meet current mission requirements. However, as Building 12 was located in the desirable “downtown” area of WPAFB and near certain key tenants, it provided an ideal opportunity for consolidation and reuse. The need for additional work to restore Building 12 to its original Art Deco appearance did not deter WPAFB from completing this restoration and meeting all LEED Silver requirements, AT/FP measures, and the SOI Standards. The restoration of Building 12 was completed in June 2010, adding to the preservation of the Wright Field Historic District, both historically and functionally. The Building 12 restoration highlights the most elaborate example of the 1930s Art Deco architecture on the base, while the improved space provides a working environment to serve new vital functions in the expanding missions at WPAFB. To highlight this success, WPAFB was awarded the Ohio SHPO Preservation Merit Award in 2010 for the project. The preservation and restoration of Building 12 was one reason why WPAFB received the 2011 Secretary of Defense Environmental Award for Cultural Resources Management—Installation.

Find the full article and other recent issues online at: [http://www.achp.gov/sec106_successes.html](http://www.achp.gov/sec106_successes.html).

Restored atrium (photo courtesy WPAFB).  
Main elevation after restoration (photo courtesy Ohio SHPO).
National Park Service Cultural Resources Climate Change Strategy


The National Park Service (NPS) developed a strategy that connects cultural resources and climate change. The Cultural Resources Climate Change Strategy (CRCC Strategy) is a landmark statement for the NPS and its historic preservation and climate change partners about how to anticipate, plan for, and respond to the effects of climate change on cultural resources.

“Climate change is the biggest challenge NPS has ever faced,” said NPS Acting Director Michael Reynolds. “Climate change poses an especially acute problem for managing cultural resources because they are unique. Our cultural resources are the things, the places and the ways of living that remember our past and shape our identity. Once lost, they are lost forever.”

NPS is the lead federal agency for protection and management of cultural resources. Given this role, the CRCC Strategy sets out a vision for cultural resources and climate change that is both broad and practical, and summarizes relevant approaches and case studies.

Today, rising sea levels and storm surge threaten some coastal fortifications, historic cemeteries, and prehistoric shell middens like those at Everglades National Park. In the American West, changing precipitation patterns have resulted in flooding in important landscapes and increased stress on historic buildings, including adobe structures at Tumacácori National Historical Park. In higher latitudes, delicate tools of wood and bone are exposed to air and rapid decay as snow and ice fields melt in places like Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

Specifically, the CRCC Strategy connects cultural resources to the four pillars of climate change response identified in the NPS Climate Change Response Strategy released in 2010: science, adaptation, mitigation, and communication. Approaches and methods from other NPS guidance documents, tools and supporting information, and many park- and partner-based case studies are incorporated throughout.

The CRCC Strategy presents four major goals:

- Connect Impacts and Information: managing cultural resources under climate change requires assessing effects of climate change on cultural resources and engaging with the stories and meaning that cultural resources hold about long-term human interactions with our environment.

- Understand the Scope: additional work is needed to understand the range and thresholds of climate change impacts on cultural resources.

- Integrate Practice: climate data and related information and approaches (such as scenario planning) should be adapted for the specific needs of cultural resources, and ongoing cultural resources management should incorporate climate data and related information and approaches.

- Learn and Share: NPS has unique approaches to share, and collaboration with partners nationally and internationally is essential to meet the urgent threats of climate change and preserve global human heritage.

The CRCC Strategy addresses overarching issues faced by NPS. It is also organized so that it is relevant and useful to Federal, state, tribal, and other historic preservation and climate change response partners. Its content draws from NPS climate workshops, reports, projects, technical assistance requests, and community of practice discussions from 2011-2016. It was refined through two rounds of peer review.

The full report can be found at https://www.nps.gov/subjects/climatechange/culturalresourcesstrategy.htm
The Department of Defense (DoD) maintains thousands of historic and cultural resources that form an integral part of mission support and readiness. The Department’s cultural resources are the Nation’s heritage and the Department holds these assets in trust for all Americans. As stewards of the Nation’s largest inventory of Federally-owned historic properties, DoD strives to maintain and interpret those resources it manages to support the defense mission and to preserve military and cultural heritage for future generations. Cultural resources are mission enhancing assets, connecting our fighting men and women with their proud history and traditions. The Department continues to use and maintain some of the Nation’s most treasured cultural resources as an integral part of mission support and readiness.

The DoD historic property portfolio includes approximately 70 National Historic Landmarks, nearly 700 entries on the National Register of Historic Places, and over 19,000 individual historic properties, including over 16,700 known archaeological sites and 3,200 historic buildings. The majority of these resources are managed at the installation level by the Military Services, working closely with various stakeholders, including Indian tribes, State Historic Preservation Officers, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. This ensures DoD’s compliance with applicable Federal laws, Executive Orders, and regulations, while simultaneously supporting the Department’s national defense mission and commitment to stakeholder engagement.

Visit the Cultural Resources Program website www.denix.osd.mil/cr/ for more information.