Written by Julie Darsie, Cultural Resources Program Manager, NAVFAC Washington

In 2015, NAVFAC Washington and two State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) cooperated to restore and relocate a watch box dating to 1853 from Naval Support Facility Indian Head (Indian Head) back to the Washington Navy Yard after a 110-year absence. The watch box originally served as a check-in station for visitors to the Washington Navy Yard, like a modern security kiosk. The late Naval Historian Mr. James Dolph conceived of the idea to relocate then restore the historic watch box as mitigation for an adverse effect under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for the demolition of two historic piers at the Washington Navy Yard. In 2011, the Navy, DC SHPO, and Maryland SHPO (Maryland Historical Trust [MHT]) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) stipulating that the Navy would move the watch box from Indian Head, located in Maryland, back to its original home at the Washington Navy Yard in Washington, D.C.

The watch box was constructed circa 1853 as a Marine post, located just inside the Latrobe Gate of the Washington Navy Yard. Around 1905, the Navy barged the one-room, wood-frame building down the Potomac River to Indian Head in Charles County, Maryland. There it served as a foreman’s office, telephone switchboard building, and grounds storage shed before abandonment in the mid-twentieth century. By the early 2000s, the building was deteriorated but still recognizable. The Navy determined, and MHT concurred, that it was a contributing element to the Indian Head Naval Proving Ground Historic District in 1997.

To overcome the challenge of two mitigation consultations in two different state jurisdictions, the Navy arranged for the DC SHPO and MHT to meet for a joint site visit at Indian Head in 2010. There the DC SHPO agreed that moving the building back to the Washington Navy Yard would be an acceptable mitigation under Section 106 for the demolition of two historic piers at the Washington Navy Yard. Then MHT agreed that while removing the building from the Indian Head Naval Proving Ground Historic District would be an adverse effect to the historic district, the restoration of the building in its original location would be an acceptable mitigation for that adverse effect. In 2011, both parties signed the resulting MOA.

(Continued on page 2)
NAVFAC Washington contracted with EYP, Inc. and Summit Construction to relocate and restore the watch box. Preparations included a detailed historic preservation report, transportation plan, paint analysis, and documentation and numbering of each building component prior to the move. Per the terms of the MOA, both SHPOs reviewed and provided comment on the documentation. On April 16, 2015, a remote-controlled dolly slowly carried the watch box downhill to the dock at Indian Head where a crane lifted the watch box from the dock onto a barge. The watch box was then transported by barge up the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers to the Washington Navy Yard. At the Washington Navy Yard Pier 1, a crane lifted the watch box over the eight-foot iron fence that lines the Navy’s riverfront. Finally, a dolly rolled the watch box through the narrow streets of the Navy Yard to its new brick pad in West Leutze Park, just south of its original location (now the firehouse).

Once in place, detailed restoration work began on the watch box. Pursuant to the stipulated terms of the MOA, both SHPOs provided comment on concept and design development drawings for the restoration. The original fenestration pattern and missing architectural details were recreated based on historical photographs and physical evidence. Historical photographs also provided the only reference for reconstruction of the gingerbread porch that originally wrapped the building. Paint analysis revealed a surprising gray, brown and yellow color scheme. A new metal roof, flashing and gutters completed the project. The watch box officially opened as an interpretive site in the Washington Navy Yard on October 8, 2015.
The Department of Defense (DoD) manages an irreplaceable collection of cultural resources and records that reflect our shared history and national identity. As the stewards of numerous heritage resources, DoD personnel have an opportunity to share associated cultural narratives with the public. In a recent example of this, Joint Base Langley-Eustis and Dover Air Force Base contracted with AECOM to develop historic contexts to highlight the history and archaeological resources at each installation. Fort Eustis published “Bound in a Brilliant Tide,” to synthesize the rich history and describe the more than 230 archaeological sites on Mulberry Island within the bounds of Fort Eustis (part of Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Virginia). This project was undertaken as a part of Section 110 compliance activities. Dover Air Force Base published “To Slip the Bonds of Earth,” from historical narratives and archaeological data to place the installation within a broader historic context from which the community derives so much of its heritage. This project was developed as mitigation stipulated in a Memorandum of Agreement signed as a result of the demolition and reconstruction of an on-base school at Dover Air Force Base.

Beginning with the earliest human inhabitants, each story moves through tales of survival, adaptation, war, and innovation to emphasize the relatable human history of each installation. The volumes were designed to specifically emphasize how each installation is part of the local history of the surrounding communities, and thus serve as important components of local identity. Both publications were conceived to reach audiences that may otherwise be unaware of the DoD’s cultural resources, and its interest in contributing to the furtherance of such cultural narratives. Encouraging increased public interest can provide DoD cultural and environmental managers with an opportunity to engage civilians and service members alike by investigating and showcasing the heritage their installation embodies.

The volumes have been circulated through on-base museums, local schools and libraries, and the applicable State Historic Preservation Offices to develop a broader public appreciation for the history specific to these installations.

National Park Service HABS/HAER/HALS Mitigation Documentation Policy

Excerpts taken from NPS Memorandum, “Transmitting Library of Congress Mitigation Documentation to HABS/HAER/HALS”

Until 1997, the National Park Service (NPS) accepted and transmitted to the Library of Congress mitigation documentation for all historic properties to be substantially altered or demolished as a result of a federal agency's action or assistance. On October 1, 1997, the NPS issued a policy memorandum announcing that documentation to Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) standards "will continue to be carried out" only for "National Historic Landmarks, properties eligible for the National Register at the national level of significance, and some specifically identified, individually eligible properties significant at the State and local levels." The 1997 policy memorandum expressly exempted from HABS/HAER documentation standards various categories of properties "significant [only] at the State or local level." In a reversal back to the previous policy, the NPS, through the Heritage Documentation Programs (HABS/HAER/HALS), will again accept all documentation of National Register and National Register-eligible properties of national, state, regional or local significance that meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Architectural and Engineering Documentation for inclusion in the HABS/HAER/HALS collection at the Library of Congress.

A copy of the memorandum can be found at https://www.nps.gov/hdp/2016MitigationMemo.pdf.

Works of a Master: Addressing Evaluation of Routine or Prosaic Architecture by Famous Architects on Military Facilities


Department of Defense (DoD) Legacy Resource Management Program funded a project entitled “Work of a Master? Addressing Evaluation of Routine or Prosaic Architecture by Famous Architects on Military Facilities,” which JRP Historical Consulting, LLC recently completed. The goal of this project was to create a tool to help military cultural resources managers evaluate seemingly commonplace conventional buildings that were designed by prominent and accomplished architects.

Throughout the twentieth century, the military branches increasingly contracted private architects and architectural firms to design nearly all types of buildings, from the most architecturally impressive and significant buildings, to the most rudimentary and common structures. The Federal government’s increased use of private architects, including those architects with proven records, increased the chances that an architect considered a master for the purposes of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) evaluation designed for DoD prosaic or routine buildings, such as a warehouse, storage building, or utility structures. A property can be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C as an important work of a master architect. The NRHP Bulletin 15, “How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation,” defines a master architect as one who is “a figure of generally recognized greatness in a field, a known craftsman of consummate skill, or an anonymous craftsman whose work is distinguishable from others by its characteristic style and quality.” Bulletin 15 specifies that “a property is not eligible as the work of a master, however, simply because it was designed by a prominent architect.” Guidance for completing evaluations under the work of a master aspect of Criterion C is limited, especially for those buildings that are routine. This Legacy report provides guidance and steps for determining when it is appropriate to evaluate a building as a work of a master versus a routine building that happened to be designed by a prominent architect. The final product includes a decision-making flowchart (included on opposite page ) and specific case studies to aid in the evaluation process.

The NRHP Bulletin 15, How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation, is available at: https://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15/
**Work of a Master Flowchart**

This Work of a Master Flowchart will assist in evaluating a building under NRHP Criterion C for buildings designed by architects or firms who could be considered “masters.” Any NRHP evaluation of a building must also address other aspects of NRHP Criterion C and NRHP Criteria A, B, and D. See National Register Bulletin 15 for more instructions on NRHP evaluations. This flowchart is intended to be used with the guidance presented in “Work of a Master? Addressing Evaluation of Routine or Prosaic Architecture by Famous Architects on Military Facilities,” which discusses researching and evaluating buildings under the work of a master aspect of NRHP Criterion C.

1. **Is the building designed by a known architect or firm, or an unknown architect of distinguished abilities?**

   - **Yes**
     - Does your research indicate that the architect or firm is generally recognized for greatness, a craftsman of consummate skill, or an unknown craftsman whose work is distinguishable from others based on evidence that could include:
       - other properties by architect / firm listed on local, state or national registers
       - architect / firm recognized by contemporary architects or critics or architectural historians for greatness
       - architect / firm received honors and awards
       - architect / firm featured in trade journals and magazines

       - **Yes**
         - Based on comparisons with other buildings by architect or firm, is the building an important representation of their career because it:
           - expresses a particular phase in the development of their career
           - is a worthy example of an aspect of his or her work
           - is an important representation of a definable idea or theme in his or her craft
           - rises above the designs of other buildings within their career, especially those with similar styles?

           - **Yes**
             - Based on an assessment of the seven aspects of integrity, does the building retain overall integrity?

             - **Yes**
               - The property appears eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C as the work of a master.

             - **No**
               - Identify the following for complete documentation: character-defining features, property boundaries, level of significance, and period of significance.

           - **No**
             - If the property does not retain integrity, it is not eligible for listing in the NRHP and you have completed the evaluation process.

       - **No**
         - The property does not appear eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C as the work of a master.

   - **No**
     - Complete the NRHP evaluation of the property for other aspects of Criterion C as well as Criteria A, B, and D. Also complete the assessment of integrity.

     - **Does the property meet one or more of the significance criteria and retain overall integrity?**

       - **Yes**
         - If the property does not meet NRHP Criteria A, B, C, or D, it is not eligible for listing in the NRHP and you have completed the evaluation process.

       - **No**
         - If the property does not meet NRHP Criteria A, B, C, or D, it is not eligible for listing in the NRHP and you have completed the evaluation process.
Administraion Building 409: Bringing Back the Commanding Officer’s Building at Naval Air Station Patuxent River

Written by Michael Smolek, Cultural Resources Program Manager and Stan Goins, Project Manager, Naval Air Station Patuxent River Public Works Department, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Washington

Naval Air Station Patuxent River Complex (Pax River) recently completed a renovation of Administration Building-409 (B-409), used as the Installation Commanding Officer’s headquarters. The building is considered individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. B-409 was built in 1942 in the International Style and consists of a wood frame with long bands of wood sash windows. The building became a high priority for renovation due to deferred maintenance and the presence of lead paint, poor HVAC systems, and original asbestos Transite siding. A termite infestation also plagued the building, causing the wood to decay to the point that large holes allowed outside air and pests inside. Occupants used plastic sheeting, bubble wrap and plywood to keep out the winter cold while window air conditioners rattled non-stop during the humid Chesapeake summers.

Pax River faced a significant challenge to develop a plan to address the numerous problems of B-409. Rotten wood around the windows and behind the Transite asbestos siding meant that a complete window replacement was considered; however, Pax River determined they could not meet Anti-Terrorism Force Protection (ATFP) requirements with wholesale window replacement. To further complicate matters, the building needed to remain occupied, fully functioning, and secure during the renovation. In consultation with the Maryland State Historic Preservation Office, the Navy developed a project plan that resulted in no adverse effects to historic properties by focusing rehabilitation work on the building envelope.

To begin, Pax River erected scaffolds around the entire building and put up temporary interior plastic walls to contain abatement activities. The Transite siding was removed and the rotten areas of sub-siding were repaired. Loose fill insulation was blown into the hollow wall cavities between the studs and the exterior was covered with an air and water resistant barrier. Finally, a thin Exterior Insulated Finish System (EIFS) was installed, consisting of one-inch thick rigid foam with an applied cementitious (Decoplast) outer layer. The EIFS had be thin so that it would not change the depth of the windows in relation to the exterior siding. The thin EIFS was a compromise balancing energy efficiency and historic preservation needs. Rotten window trim was replaced in many areas, and a new HVAC system allowed for the removal of the old window units.

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A major component of the project focused on the double-hung wood windows. The project called for removal of the lead-based paint from sashes and frames, replacement of all missing hardware, and return of the windows to operable condition. The contractor set up an on-site lead stripping operation for the sashes and frames. The contractor also replaced missing and broken glass panes in the sashes. Remarkably, after the lead-based paint was removed, not a single sash or window frame needed significant repair. The non-historic aluminum exterior storm windows were removed and replaced with an interior storm system called the Winsulator, comprised of interior clear acrylic storm windows held in place with magnetic strips. The lightweight interior storm windows are easily removed, allowing the windows to be opened as desired, while eliminating air leakage. A new building sign, reflecting the design of the original 1940’s sign, completed the project.

Although only two months of utilities data is available at this point, a comparison of the same two winter heating bills before and after the project revealed an impressive 46 percent reduction in fuel consumption. The long-overdue renovation project has made the building more functional and comfortable for the occupants, which bodes well for the continued preservation of this 75-year-old historic building.

National Register of Historic Places Program Updates

Written by Derek Anderson, Cultural Resources Specialist, Booz Allen Hamilton

The division of the National Park Service that administers the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) has multiple updates. Stephanie Toothman, Keeper of the NRHP, retired from her position, effective June 3, 2017, and J. Paul Loether has been appointed Acting Keeper of the NRHP. In addition to receiving a new Keeper, the NRHP has moved offices. The office is once again accepting document submissions. The address for the new location is:

National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 7228, 1849 C St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240.

The National Register requests that individuals submitting nominations only use UPS, FedEx, DHL, or another non-USPS vendor. All U.S. Postal Service (USPS) mail sent to our building is subject to irradiation. Items may be damaged if sent via USPS.
Navy Celebrates 75th Anniversary on Naval Air Station Whidbey Island

Written by Lyz Ellis and Kendall Campbell, NASWI Archaeologist and Cultural Resources Program Manager

The U.S. Navy is preparing to celebrate its 75th anniversary on Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island, located in Oak Harbor, Washington. Since World War II, NAS Whidbey Island has been home to important Naval Air platforms and sailors, while prior to the Navy’s arrival the island was home to a small rural community. Little is written about these early local settlers, and their stories exist only in archives, attics, government records, and family stories. Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to establish their own historic preservation programs for the identification, evaluation, and protection of historic properties, and in the case of Whidbey Island, Section 110 work is helping to uncover and document some of the hidden history of the island.

By the late 1930s, continuing naval buildup required construction and expansion of facilities on the west coast and the Navy proposed construction of a new base on Whidbey Island to supply sea-based and land-based patrol planes.

Following the December 7, 1941, attack on U.S. Naval Base Pearl Harbor, construction of the planned Whidbey Island Naval facilities became urgent. By August of that year the Navy began acquiring land on Whidbey Island in great haste, and by April of 1942, the land that Ault Field now occupies had passed into Federal ownership. Within two months the Navy acquired the land on which the seaplane base is built, and as World War II continued, additional acreage was purchased for Outlying Field (OLF) Coupeville.

The Berlin Blockade shattered the brief period of peace following World War II, marking the first major crisis of the Cold War, and the outbreak of the Korean War. NAS Whidbey Island grew again during this time, taking on the role as the Master Jet Station, which prompted the purchase of additional land at Ault Field.

While naval construction on Whidbey Island displaced settlers who had built homes and established farms on land now occupied by the Navy, their houses, barns, outbuildings, and place names remain. Evidence of their lives dots the landscape, with additional remnants potentially buried in undeveloped areas or beneath streets and buildings. Consequently, as a part of their Section 110 compliance efforts, NAS Whidbey Island has contracted with an environmental firm to conduct historical and archival research and prepare a historical context report for early Euro-American settlement in the area. This will serve to record and convey this early history, thereby ensuring that this heritage is not lost permanently, and provide a foundation upon which to evaluate such remaining resources for their historic significance in future compliance consultations.

Above: Riksen farmhouse and barn, constructed circa 1900 Henry Riksen, located on Ault Field at NAS Whidbey Island.
Sentinel Landscapes

Written by Cecilia Brothers; edited by Jaime Simon, Deputy Program Director, External Affairs and Communication, REPI Program, and Derek Anderson, Cultural Resources Specialist, Booz Allen Hamilton. Excerpts taken from the Sentinel Landscapes program website.

The United States Departments of Agriculture (USDA), Defense (DoD), and the Interior (DOI) established the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership in 2013 as a nationwide Federal, local, and private collaboration dedicated to promoting natural resources sustainability and the preservation of agricultural and conservation land uses in areas surrounding military installations. Sentinel Landscapes are working or natural lands important to the Nation’s defense mission—places where preserving the working and rural character of key landscapes strengthens the economies of farms, ranches, and forests; conserves habitat and natural resources; and protects the vital test, training, and operational missions conducted on those military installations that anchor such landscapes. The Partnership coordinates and focuses resources from USDA, DoD, and DOI, and seeks participation and support from state and local governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and individual landowners.

By participating in Sentinel Landscapes, DoD more efficiently reduces land-use conflicts and natural resources issues around military installations to ensure maximum flexibility for testing, training, and operational activities. Although no dedicated funding accompanies designation, individual partner agencies may choose to provide program-specific funding or give priority consideration in existing funding processes to landowners within a designated Sentinel Landscape.

There are currently six designated Sentinel Landscapes: Joint Base Lewis-McChord Sentinel Landscape (WA), Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape (AZ), Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape (MN), Middle Chesapeake Sentinel Landscape (MD, DE, VA), Eastern North Carolina Sentinel Landscape (NC), Avon Park Air Force Range Sentinel Landscape (FL).

Partnerships at each of these Sentinel Landscapes are collaborating to preserve, enhance, and protect habitat, vital working lands, and important cultural resources near military installations in order to reduce, prevent, or eliminate military testing and training restrictions due to incompatible development. Though priorities, partners, and strategies differ dramatically across the current Sentinel Landscapes, all locations fulfill the three core characteristics of a Sentinel Landscape as defined by the Sentinel Landscapes Federal Coordination Committee. These include at least one anchor military installation or range that anchors the Landscape, a defined Landscape boundary that reflects the partners’ overlapping priorities, and a set of articulated goals and desired outcomes.

The designation of a Sentinel Landscape has several benefits for the anchor military installation(s) and the conservation and working lands—and local communities—that fall within the landscape associated with the installation’s mission footprint. In addition to bringing improved recognition at the local, state, and national levels for projects within a Landscape’s boundary, the Sentinel Landscape designation provides partners with a framework to identify and market projects using a prominent national designation.

The Sentinel Landscapes designation can improve communication and coordination between partner agencies, organizations, and local communities, which can lead to greater landowner participation in existing voluntary conservation programs. Leveraging a wide array of interests within a landscape, including national security, conservation, and working land interests, broadens the spectrum of willing landowners with which participating entities are able to engage.

The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership produced a report on its achievements/goals through 2016. To view the report and learn about the Partnership please visit: www.SentinelLandscapes.org.
Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility Boardman Enters Cooperative Agreement with Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to Manage Oregon Trail Resources

Written by Lyz Ellis and Kendall Campbell, NASWI Archaeologist and Cultural Resources Program Manager

While the Oregon Trail serves as a lasting symbol of Euro-American westward expansion, it also had a profound impact on the indigenous populations occupying the regions that it crossed. From the early to mid-1830s, more than 2,000 miles of trails carried hundreds of thousands of settlers through mountains and prairies to establish new homes in the west. The journey took six months and crossed the homelands of many native peoples including the Sioux, Pawnee, Shoshone, Nez Perce, Cayuse, Walla Walla, and Umatilla.

The final 550-mile leg of the long and arduous journey traversed Oregon from the Snake River Crossing near Nyssa, to the Columbia River at The Dalles. From that point, settlers either rafted their belongings downriver or crossed overland on established roads. The main route followed river valleys where grass and water were plentiful; however, alternate routes and cutoffs branched out as well. In Oregon, a 26-mile alternate route ran from the Umatilla River and Pendleton, across the arid plains south of the Columbia River. A 10-mile stretch of that alternative route, called the Well Springs Segment, passes through the southern section of what is now Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility (NWSTF) Boardman.

While the Well Springs cutoff potentially shortened the trip, it crossed one of the hottest and driest legs of the journey and only two small springs provided water for the caravans—Upper Well Springs and Lower Well Springs (aka Tub Springs). Since the entire trip took six months, most wagon trains passed through in August and September when the weather was hot and water was scarce. The caravans had to divide to reach enough water to complete the route, and both historically important springs are now within NWSTF Boardman.

Like many stretches of the Oregon Trail, the alternate route followed a pre-existing Native American trail through lands where Native people lived and traveled freely before the Euro-American westward expansion. NWSTF Boardman did not have a lot of information regarding the Native American use of the alternate route of the Oregon Trail. NAS Whidbey Island manages NWSTF Boardman, and as a part of their Section 110 compliance efforts they have entered into a cooperative agreement with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Under the cooperative agreement, the Umatilla will conduct oral histories and prepare a report on the tribal history and significance of the Wells Springs Segment from an indigenous perspective. The Tribes will also suggest management approaches for parts of the trail that have significance to them, which the Navy will incorporate into its management plan for the trail.

Above: View of Upper Wells Springs at NWSTF Boardman, part of Upper Wells Springs Segment of the Oregon Trail.
Department of Defense American Indian Cultural, Communications and Consultation Course San Diego, California

A DoD American Indian Cultural, Communications and Consultation Course (AICCCC) will be held November 7-9, 2017, at the Admiral Kidd Conference Center Naval Base Pt. Loma Annex, San Diego, California. This training session will be specifically targeted to Navy Region SW and their registration requests will be given first priority. Classes will be conducted from 0800-1700. One evening program is also part of the course instruction. American Indian specialists in history, culture, and intercultural communication, and DoD legal staff will teach this acclaimed training.

This FREE introductory course provides valuable information for DoD employees whose work could affect Indian tribes and for those already working with tribes and tribal members. The training will include:

- History of Indian laws and the legal basis for DoD American Indian and Alaska Native Policy;
- Federal law and policies that impact DoD relationships with Indian tribes;
- Explanation of DoD’s Instruction 4710.02: DoD Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes;
- Introduction to tribal concepts and cultures;
- Intercultural communication practices; and
- Strategies and steps for consulting with tribes.

If you would like to REGISTER, please email the following information to Chris Allen, no later than October 17, 2017: 1) your first and last name; 2) military rank, if applicable; or status as a DoD employee or contractor 3) job title; 4) military branch; 5) installation location and mailing address; 6) your email address; 7) your direct telephone number; and 8) briefly, your reasons for wanting to take the course and whether you have any experience working with tribes.

We will confirm your approved registration via email and provide you with more detailed information about transportation, course location, lodging options, and other logistics.

For more information, contact Mr. Allen at william.c.allen240.ctr@mail.mil or at (571) 372-6894 (EST).

The National Environmental Education Foundation’s (NEEF) National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is the nation’s largest, single-day volunteer effort for public lands. This year, military installations open to the public for recreation can apply for a DoD Legacy award to complete an NPLD project on their lands. The NPLD DoD Legacy Award offers funding of up to $6,500 for volunteer-based work projects on DoD sites that meet all of the following eligibility requirements: 1) DoD installation site must be open to the public for recreation, including lands managed by the U.S. Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, National Guard or Navy (lands managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are not eligible for Legacy funds); 2) DoD site must be registered for this year’s National Public Lands Day, available at: https://www.neefusa.org/pld-registration; 3) Proposed project can be completed by December 1, 2017.

More information can be found at: https://www.neefusa.org/resource/2017-npld-department-defense-legacy-awards.

Due date for applications is: August 21, 2017.
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 73 National Historic Landmarks, 694 entries on the National Register for 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 Offices, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. This ensures DoD’s compliance with applicable Federal laws, Executive Orders, and regulations, while simultaneously supporting the multiple missions of DoD.