



## **Guidance for a CRM Information Clearinghouse** Project #07-351

### **Background:**

The idea for this project was conceived at the 2006 DoD Cultural Resources Workshop in Seattle, where it was determined that a national cultural resource management (CRM) clearinghouse for DoD agencies would result in significant savings of time and money. The CRM Information Clearinghouse (Clearinghouse) is designed to streamline DoD efforts by allowing staff to electronically share information on similar projects, compare historic resource types and datasets, and access preservation tools. By storing this information in a central location with an easily accessible format, CRM staff throughout the DoD can access information on similar projects with similar types of resources and historic contexts.

### **Objective:**

As originally conceived, this Legacy project would: establish a standard methodology for the collection, storage and retrieval of cultural and historical resources information and historical assets of DoD lands; analyze how agencies will want to access the Clearinghouse data; develop a user-friendly interface; and build a model Clearinghouse interface ready for testing.

### **Summary of Approach:**

The project included a Core Team (Kirtland AFB and Van Citters Historic Preservation, LLC) and a DoD-wide Clearinghouse Advisory Group (CAG). The Core Team was responsible for the project management, results and outcome, while the CAG provided expert opinions and input into the final product.

Originally the project was conceived as a stand-alone database, with a three year schedule. However, the CAG determined it would be best to use the existing online environment (DENIX) for this project. Concurrently, OSD was working with DENIX consultants to upgrade the website. As a result of the CAG decision and the ongoing OSD work, the project team apprised OSD of the CAG work and shared the menu structure that was developed. This menu structure then became the cultural resource menu on the new DENIX.

Based on this change of format and project approach, the CAG was able to develop a cultural resource menu structure and interface with OSD/DENIX for implementation.

As a result of executing the implementation stage during this first year, the CAG was able to develop guidance on uploading the data and an upload template to provide a means for consistency throughout the DoD. The Core Team also developed metrics to provide information on time and effort to upload the data. Finally, the Core Team has been promoting the use of DENIX through preparing a list of beneficial uses for the Clearinghouse and presenting workshops for CRM managers on how to use the new DENIX.

### **Benefit:**

The project will benefit the DoD by providing: (1) a baseline structure from which a national database can be developed to promote interagency information sharing and comparative analysis; and (2) a tool to aid in streamlining DoD projects by sharing information about previous similar studies or thematic research.

### **Accomplishments:**

The project develops a data structure for cultural resource management information, implements the structure on DENIX, drafts guidance for uploading cultural resource data to DENIX and provides marketing/outreach tools to educate CRMs throughout DoD.

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