



# Climate Adaptation Guide for Cultural Resources

## A Guide to Incorporating Climate Considerations into Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plans

Project #CR20-002

### Background:

There is an operational need to ensure that current and future climatic changes do not compromise the ability of installations to serve their essential operational, training, and testing functions to keep our nation safe. Extreme weather events and divergent climatic patterns are affecting DoD installations. The DoD also has a responsibility for cultural resource stewardship.



**Wildfire, Source U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Gina Chiaverotti-Paige**

The built infrastructure required to support the military mission on DoD installations is extensive and many of these facilities are historic. DoD's Cultural Resources Program is designed to support the military's combat readiness mission while maintaining the long-term sustainability of its historic properties. Therefore, cultural resource management needs to adapt to the broad range of climate-related changes to protect historic properties.

### Objective:

*Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 4715.16, Cultural Resources Management*, establishes the requirement for DoD to prepare Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plans (ICRMPs). Also, *DoD Directive 4715.21, Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience (2016)* requires that all operations, planning activities, business processes, and resource allocation decisions include climate change considerations. This guidance document presents the methodology for considering and integrating climate change risks into cultural resources management and the potential ways to improve resiliency for cultural resources. This guide also presents guidance for integrating these climate adaptation strategies into the ICRMP.

### Summary of Approach:

The guide has two parts. Part I includes an overview of climate risks to military installations and mission; climate change and cultural resources management requirements; an introduction on climate change and adaptation; sources of adaptation-related information; a summary of climate and adaptation considerations for individual ICRMP program elements; and a review of options for incorporating climate concerns into ICRMPs.

Part II offers a step-by-step method for carrying out the ICRMP adaptation planning process and integrating the outcomes into the ICRMP. The appendices provide additional sources of adaptation-related information, and a set of detailed worksheets that support installation-level climate adaptation planning and ICRMP integration.

### Benefit:

An ICRMP integrates the complex array of overlapping legal responsibilities into a coherent and efficient overall program. It integrates cultural resources responsibilities with the many other programs and activities that may interact with cultural resources and stakeholders. These plans help ensure compatibility between the installation's military mission, other planned activities, and the management of its cultural resources. The ICRMP is the logical place to include strategies to manage cultural resources for changing climatic conditions.



**Minnesota Army National Guard Responds to Flooding (Source: MNARNG)**

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