

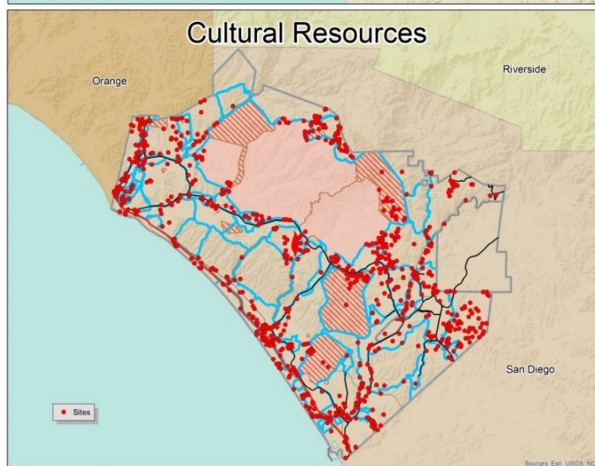
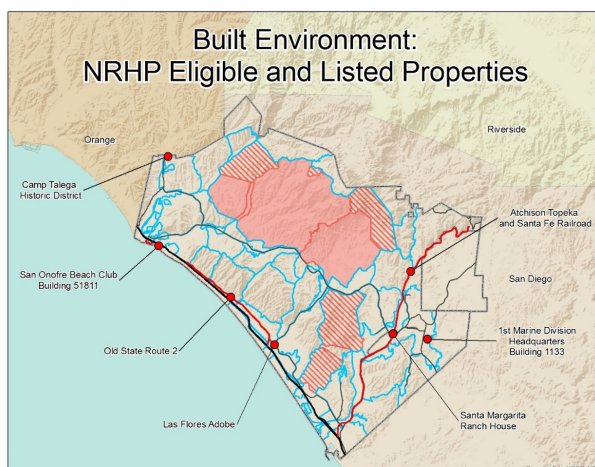


2026 Secretary of the Navy Environmental Award Cultural Resources Management Program – Large Marine Corps Installations West-Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton



INTRODUCTION

Marine Corps Installations West-Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton (MCIWEST-MCB CAMPEN) takes great pride in its stewardship responsibilities of the unique cultural resource sites entrusted to its care. Chartered with an important mission to train Marines while preserving valuable non-renewable resources for future generations, the Base's Cultural Resources Management (CRM) Program (CRMP) has successfully built and maintained a program that integrates the protection and management of cultural resources while facilitating, executing, and enhancing the mission to train Marines in a variety of settings that are unique to this west coast installation. An integral part of this team's success comes from continually engaging internal and external stakeholders including numerous tenant commands, extensive and dynamic Range Operations and Public Works Departments, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), the California (CA) State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Native American tribes, and the public. The mission of the CRMP is to support the Marine Corps mission, achieve regulatory compliance, and ensure that Marine Corps stewardship responsibilities are met via actions that identify and evaluate resources, implement protection and compliance, and collaborate with internal and external stakeholders to advance awareness and preservation.



The combination of hundreds of National Register of Historic Properties eligible and listed properties and nearly 1,000 cultural sites presents unique management opportunities for MCIWEST-MCB CAMPEN's team.

The mission of MCIWEST-MCB CAMPEN is to operate a premier training base that promotes the combat readiness of operating forces by providing training opportunities, facilities, services and support responsive to the needs of Marines, Sailors and their families. MCIWEST-MCB CAMPEN manages over 125,000 acres of United States Marine Corps (USMC) land in southern California supporting coastal and mountain training actions along 17 miles of undeveloped shoreline and three major river catchments with elevations up to 3,200 feet above sea level. The Base has been conducting air, sea, and ground assault training since 1942, providing a unique combination of natural and military resources for the training of Marines and other service forces.

Serving as the Marine Corps' premier amphibious training base, MCIWEST-MCB CAMPEN provides comprehensive air, sea, and ground assault training to 42,000 active duty service members, 25,000 reserve service members, and over 17,000 entry level Marines (recruits) from Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Combined with civilian personnel that work on the Base, MCIWEST-MCB CAMPEN serves an average daytime population of 85,000. Through efficient range and training facility scheduling, timely deconfliction of live-fire training events, and effective special use airspace management, nearly 70,000 training events are conducted annually aboard MCB CAMPEN.

As the busiest Marine Corps training base on the West Coast, MCB CAMPEN supports the day-to-day training requirements of First Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) and unit level requirements to prepare for regular deployments with specialized units such as Marine Expeditionary Units and Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Forces. In addition to hosting I MEF and the major subordinate commands of 1st Marine Division and 1st Marine Logistics Group, MCB CAMPEN also supports the integral mission to provide formal schooling at numerous Training and Education Command entities, to include Weapons Field Training Battalion for Marine Corps Recruits, the School of Infantry (West) for basic warfighting techniques of newly minted Marines, and the Field Medical Training Battalion for Fleet Marine Force Navy Corpsmen.

One of the few remaining open spaces in coastal southern California, the Base contains some of the region's most unique and well-preserved cultural resource sites. MCIWEST-MCB CAMPEN stewards significant Native American sites including ethnohistoric village sites, rock art and ceremonial locations, prehistoric quarries, shell middens, lithic manufacturing sites, traditional cultural properties and sacred sites. The built environment includes historic properties from the Spanish period through the Marine Corps era. The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listed Spanish-period Las Flores Estancia as an outpost of Mission San Luis Rey de Francia. Architecturally significant resources from the Mexican period include the Las Flores Adobe National Historic Landmark and the NRHP-listed Santa Margarita Ranch House. El Camino Real/Old State Route 2 is an NRHP-eligible preserved section of California's first paved highway represents the American period and Marine Corps historic properties include the NRHP-eligible 1st Marine Corps Division Headquarters, San Onofre Beach Club, and Camp Talega Historic District.

BACKGROUND

Archaeological survey and inventory of MCIWEST-MCB CAMPEN to meet industry standards of all surveyable lands was completed in 2019. There are 908 recorded archaeological resources including 163 that are eligible for the NRHP, and one listed on the National Register. In FY-24 and FY-25, the CRMP developed and executed a Section 106 Programmatic Agreement in support of the military mission, completed the 5-year update to the Base's Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP), evaluated 160 buildings for inclusion on the National Register, made significant progress towards the restoration of the Las Flores Adobe, monitored and assessed the condition of 14 archaeological sites, reviewed 591 projects for Section 106 compliance, and completed 11 consultations with the California SHPO and 40 tribal consultations.

The CRMP team works with multiple internal and external stakeholders to accomplish its objective of supporting MCB CAMPEN's mission. The team is fully integrated with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Resources Management Branch resulting in early coordination of project review. The team has built strong working relationships with staff from Public Works, Facilities Engineering and Acquisition Division, Range Operations and Development, and Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Southwest (NAVFACSW) to provide seamless compliance. The CRMP has a strong trust-built relationship with the California SHPO, ACHP, federally-recognized tribes, and consulting parties allowing the Base to come to solutions for the benefit of the resources and the installation's mission.

The foundation for the Base's CRMP is its ICRMP. This well-developed document provides a framework for the management of cultural resources in the context of supporting the military mission aboard MCIWEST-MCB CAMPEN and serves as a guide for cultural resource management under applicable federal law and regulations, Department of War (DoW) directives, Secretary of Navy

instruction, and Marine Corps orders. In FY-23 consultation with the tribes and CA SHPO began on an updated ICRMP and in FY-24 was consulted on, finalized, and signed.

Implementing and guiding the CRMP is a highly skilled professional team of four full-time General Schedule (GS) professional archaeologists. The staff members hold three Master's degrees and one PhD in Anthropology, and possess specialized training in geographical information systems, lithic technology, and faunal analysis. During the award period, staff completed training in ACHP Section 106 Essentials, Advanced Practitioners and Agreement Seminar, and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Implementation.

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mission Enhancement - Programmatic Agreement

The CRMP at MCIWEST-MCB CAMPEN has a longstanding history of tribal consultation with six federally-recognized tribes and four non-federally-recognized tribes. To improve this process and relationship during this award period, the CRMP completed consultation on a new streamlined Section 106 Programmatic Agreement (PA). This PA was developed in close collaboration with federally-recognized tribes, the CA SHPO, ACHP, and consulting parties as an integrated planning team with a blank slate and regular working group meetings. The goal was to develop a PA that was collaborative in its process, supports the military mission, includes tribal engagement in the process, and streamlines the Section 106 timeline and process with built-in efficiencies. The resulting MCB CAMPEN Section 106 PA includes unscreened routine military training (following Range and Training Area Standard Operation procedures and Environmental Operating Maps) in addition to seven other classes of unscreened undertakings requiring no consultation or CRM review, and 17 undertaking classes that are screened by the CRM and requiring no consultation. This PA streamlines the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800 and eliminates case-by-case consultations for undertakings whenever there will be no adverse effects to historic properties, due to either the lack of historic properties within the area of potential effect or implementation of standard protection measures to avoid those resources, or undertakings that are unlikely to affect historic properties.

During the development of this PA, tribes were collaboratively engaged with monthly project meetings and consultations for undertakings not subject to an exclusion. Consultation and review by the CA SHPOs office is not required for "no historic properties present," "no historic properties affected," and "no historic properties affected using protection measures." Further efficiencies include processes and timelines for resolution of adverse effect, post-review discoveries, and project changes after initial review. The streamlined PA will result in significant reduction of required internal review time for projects with inestimable time cost savings for hundreds of projects, allowing expedited planning across the range of facility and public works activities on the Base. To continue engaging external stakeholders, tribes are formally and informally engaged in consultation on a variety of projects on the Base. In addition to formal consultation letters and meetings, and in recognition of the Base's relationship with the tribes, the PA formalizes the Base's relationship with the tribes by representing them as invited signatories and concurring parties.

By executing the streamlined Section 106 PA, the CRMP made efficiency a priority to achieve mission success. The CRMP has also used the Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement among the DoW, ACHP, and CA SHPO to Demolish World War II (1939-1946) Temporary Buildings, the Program Comment for Cold War Era Unaccompanied Personnel Housing (1946-1974), and Program Comment for World War II and Cold War Era (1939-1974) Ammunition Storage Facilities, to maximize efficiencies and streamline its Section 106 responsibilities, as much as possible.



The CASMET program identifies archaeological sites at risk from erosion due to loss of vegetation from wildfires or in highly trafficked and priority training areas. As necessary, stabilization and control measures are established to preserve the integrity, such as the closure of a redundant unimproved road through a NRHP eligible burial site and hydroseeding with native seeds.

consuming and outdated process of printed records search.

In FY-24, to continue leveraging expertise organic to the CRM team and readily available Marine Corps Enterprise Network functionality, a SharePoint-integrated database was developed that significantly improved management of multiple processes and datasets. The newly developed SharePoint-integrated, multi-user project tracker now combines formerly separate elements of the CRS workflow – tracking consultation, projects, reports, and resources – into one program designed for the specific requirements of the 2024 streamlined PA. The tool allows the section to quickly assign project reviewers, to identify requirements specific to the PA, to track consultation milestones, and to evaluate individual and section-wide project status. This in-house developed support tool shortens project review times by centralizing multiple elements of the process, reducing points of failure by standardizing data entry related to the PA and eliminating the need for redundant data entry for each project across trackers. Moreover, it promotes timely progress status updates based on ongoing consultation milestones and allows for quick reviews of ongoing work.

Archaeological Resources – Management and Stewardship

The CRM team stewards its archaeological resources through the Condition Assessment, Site Monitoring, and Effects Treatment (CASMET) program. With the aid of GIS, this innovative program was designed to identify archaeological sites that may be particularly vulnerable to mission critical training activities and/or naturally caused erosion. Most sites in the program are on a triennial rotation however, sensitive or fragile sites such as those containing rock art or human remains are monitored annually. Photographic monitoring from set GPS points is used to help determine changes from the last site visit and the CASMET database tracks assessments through time to identify ongoing effects. The database includes monitoring forms and photographs which are downloaded onto mobile devices to aid field crews in their assessment. The database is used to identify sites that are in need of stabilization and/or site protections. During this award period, 149 archaeological sites were monitored through the CASMET program. Results of this program are added to a database and the CRM GIS to visualize any changes in site integrity or stability. This allows the team to quickly identify and address any impacts that may be occurring from natural erosion processes or from military training through the site

Cultural Resources – Data Management

Recognizing the utmost importance to provide timely and clear guidance with respect to cultural resources for the extremely large volume of training and infrastructure or facility requests aboard MCIWEST-MCB CAMPEN, the CRM team has developed a robust set of data management tools to enable quick and efficient data retrieval needed during project review. Project review is streamlined by incorporation of archaeological site data including testing and evaluation data, all technical reports, and site record forms into the CRM Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) geodatabase. In 2018, integration of decades of reports into the CRM GIS geodatabase was completed, effectively providing staff relevant data at their fingertips in lieu of a more time

stabilization module of the CASMET program. Past site stabilization efforts have included shoring for eroding burials, vegetation rehabilitation to control erosion, and closure or rehabilitation of roads near significant sites.

Regional scale engagement with local tribes is a hallmark of the CRM team and has been exemplified via MCIWEST-MCB CAMPEN's long standing relationship with the San Diego Archaeological Center (SDAC). To comply with applicable laws and regulations, MCIWEST-MCB CAMPEN was the first entity to curate artifacts and records with the SDAC, leading the way for other Federal, state, and local agencies to house their collections at this facility. To date, the Base manages 1,145 cubic feet of space for the collections and 181 linear feet of documents recovered from surface collection and excavation activities. The SDAC fully complies with 36 CFR 79. By curating the artifacts and records at the facility, they are easily accessible for continuing study by qualified researchers and tribal members.

In December 2023, new NAGPRA regulations were issued for the Disposition or Repatriation of Native American Human Remains, Funerary Objects, Sacred Objects, and Objects of Cultural Patrimony. Given the extremely large quantity of objects at MCIWEST-MCB CAMPEN that are subject this new guidance, compliance was a significant undertaking. To proactively address these new requirements, the CRMP Team attended multiple Department of the Interior training events on the subject matter and led discussions with MCICOM and Western Area Council Office representatives on a path forward throughout 2024. As a result of this due diligence, multiple NAGPRA conversations with federally-recognized tribes resulted in compliance with the new NAGPRA regulations and a noteworthy concurrence on the path forward with federally-recognized tribes on their important heritage. The forward leaning actions of the CRMP Team to seek information, educate, and have important conversations with tribal representatives in a professional, collaborative, and symbiotic manner allowed MCIWEST-MCB CAMPEN to comply with this significant requirement in a timely manner.

During consultation for the streamlined Section 106 PA, tribal representatives stressed the importance of identifying properties with religious and cultural importance (PTRCI) across the base. Located within the ancestral lands of the Luiseño people, the base contains numerous tribal PTRCIs. In FY-25, MCIWEST-MCB CAMPEN funded a contract to support the CRMP in collaborating with tribal governments to document these resources using traditional tribal knowledge. This forward leaning effort will enhance the PA review process and support collaborative consultation to manage, steward, and preserve these properties and is a precedent setting initiative for tribal engagement in the western states.

Infrastructure Enhancement and Improvements

Continuous review of existing assets and integrated planning for priority projects aboard the Base has allowed the CRM team to proactively address future requirements and also provide in-stride actions for new or unforeseen conditions. In a collaborative effort with the Public Works Department, the CRM team identified 160 buildings in the Internet Navy Facility Asset Data Store that were approaching the 50-year age mark and led a survey to evaluate the facilities for historic significance. By proceeding with this effort, the CRM team has been able to



The Luiseño called this chert quarry Tóota Qá yli meaning “rock-lighting tool” and the Spanish borrowed their name and called it Piedra de Lumbre quarry. Tools derived from Tóota Qá yli were important trade and ceremonial use items and a quarry is a traditional cultural property eligible for the National Register. Through a successful consultation with five tribes, a longstanding road safety issue known as “Dead Man’s Curve” was removed while preserving the quarry.

better assist the Public Works Department with installation reset, demolitions, or facility sustainment, restoration, and modernization priorities.

In support of a long-standing traffic safety issue on a main thoroughfare on Base, the CRM team led a Section 106 consultation on an accelerated timeline. To improve traffic safety on an existing road segment with tight turns and steep grades that had caused numerous accidents, an extensive road alignment project was developed. Following initiation of the project a National Register eligible Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) associated with the Piedras de Lumbre Quarry, significant to federally-recognized tribes, was identified. Recognizing the need to ensure the timeline for this important project was not significantly impacted, the CRMP team moved quickly to consult with five tribes to identify potential effects to the TCP and to devise minimization measures that would protect the historic property while allowing the project to proceed. The minimization measures allowed the Base to make a determination of no adverse effect with conditions, thereby avoiding the need to resolve adverse effects through a lengthy memorandum of agreement process while protecting the resource.

Historic Structures - Stewardship

Recognizing the challenge of constrained budgets, balanced with the need to aid in the development of future cultural resource and archaeological professionals, the CRMP has successfully utilized a cooperative agreement through the DoW Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Network for professors and students from the University of Vermont (UV) to conduct maintenance and repair of the Las Flores Adobe National Historic Landmark. In FY-25, UV completed repair of interior and exterior lime plaster and added fresh lime wash. UV staff trained the CRMP team on how to mix and apply lime plaster and wash so that minor repairs could be accomplished in-house. Metal weather resistance panels were created and installed around the exterior of the building to aid in self-guided tour by the base population. The maintenance the UV cooperative completed has made significant improvement to the interior and exterior of the structure and completed plans for an outdoor self-guided interpretive trail.

Historic Structures - Rehabilitation of San Onofre Beach Club (Building 51811)

The National Register eligible San Onofre Beach Club was rehabilitated in 2014 and is still serving its original purpose as a recreation facility for MCIWEST-MCB CAMPEN community. Eligible for listing on the NRHP under multiple criteria, the building reflects the Marine Corps' desire, following WWII, to maintain a strong presence on the West Coast in the form of a training base (Criterion A). The Marine Corps' choice to construct a handsome recreation building rather than the typical utilitarian military structure is a tangible example of this desire. The club was designed by the famous master architect Myron Hunt, in a subdued Spanish Revival style one year before his retirement, and was the last major work of his career, which makes the Beach Club eligible under Criterion C. Hunt is known for his role in fostering the Spanish Revival style in the early 20th century. His choice of this style also reflects the architectural styles already present on the Base



Successful collaboration with the DoW Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Network has established a cost-effective pathway to restoration for the Las Flores Adobe NHL. The CRMP team worked with conservation specialists through University of Vermont to patch lime plaster cracks and apply a new coat of lime wash to the building's exterior. Pictured is Steve Harvey, archaeologist.



Following the successful restoration of the San Onofre Beach Club, endorsement to be added to National Register of Historic Places endorsement has been received from the California State Historic Preservation Officer and will be submitted to the Federal Preservation Officer for finalization.

of \$1,826,502.00. Given this facility's impressive location in a prime beach setting, overlooking the Pacific Ocean and world renown surfing beaches, this historic property is uniquely suited to contribute to the recreational resources at Camp Pendleton available for Marines and their families. Since 2003, the building had fallen into disrepair, and its historic significance was threatened by potential demolition by neglect. Two attempts were made, in 2001 and again in 2009, to repair the building for adaptive re-use. Although the California SHPO concurred both times with the proposed plans, the funding required to complete the stabilization and repair could not be obtained. Finally, in 2013, through the efforts of the multidisciplinary team at the installation at MCIWEST-MCB CAMPEN, NAVFACSW, the California SHPO, and private sector contractors, the Beach Club began the journey through renovation to adaptive reuse. Completed in July 2015, the Base has successfully restored the San Onofre Beach Club, retaining its character defining features while complying with current design and industry safety standards

FUTURE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

During the past two years, the MCIWEST-MCB CAMPEN CRMP has aggressively taken on two significant tasks concurrently. The completed updates of the ICRMP and the Streamlined Section 106 PA have created an unprecedented level of engagement with all stakeholders associated with historic properties and cultural sites on the Base. The culmination and value of these efforts will be realized not only in FY-24, but for years to come and the investments in time and resources and validation of relationships enables the Base to balance its mission to support training and the Marine Corps community at large with the stewardship of resources. As the CRM team continues to build on these accomplishments, the ICRMP's updated goals will address seismic stabilization and rehabilitation of the Santa Margarita Ranch House, the 1st Marine Division Headquarters Building 1133 nomination to the National Register, and completion of the renovation of the Las Flores Adobe.

in the Las Flores Adobe and Santa Margarita Ranch House. Recognizing its importance to the establishment of MCIWEST-MCB CAMPEN, the CRM team completed nomination package and received the California SHPOs endorsement. Following the receipt of endorsement in FY-23, the nomination package was submitted to the Department of the Navy Federal Preservation Officer for consideration.

The preservation of the San Onofre Beach Club is remarkable in itself, when in 2013, Camp Pendleton faced a critical decision to either demolish the building and rebuild in its place or restore the aging facility and adaptively reuse it. The Beach Club is 10,240 square feet and had a plant replacement value



Pictured at the Santa Margarita Ranch House, the CRM team is comprised of four archaeologists. From left to right they are: (left to right) Scott Sunell (archaeologist), Joe Woods (archaeologist), Kelli Brasket (Section Head-archaeologist), and Steve Harvey (archaeologist).