



Assessing Cultural Resources on U.S. Military Installations Through the Application of Criterion B

10-347

Background:

The chronicles of the United States are rife with important individuals who served in the U.S. military and influenced history and the built environment. The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is a list of significant properties that are associated with significant historic events / trends or people that embody the distinctive characteristics or represent the work of a master, or that have the potential to yield significant information. Ironically, there are, comparatively speaking, very few properties listed in the NRHP for their association with historically important individuals. This is ironic because the United States prides itself on the promotion of individuality.



This project explores the trends for the use of criterion B to list properties to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) by association with persons significant in our past. The project also provides guidance for the use of criterion B, including methods for the identification of properties that

may be listed under criterion B and guidelines to assess a property's significance under criterion B through a historic context. The second part of this report is a case study of Marine Corps Base Quantico and one of its early commanding generals, Major General Smedley Darlington Butler.

Objective:

The goal of this project is to provide military cultural resource managers with the tools to recognize historically significant individuals who have made contributions to U.S. military history and properties that may be associated with those individuals and to provide cultural resource managers with the tools to properly document those historic properties.

Summary of Approach:

Data from the NRHP database was analyzed to develop statistics for the use of criterion B. National Register Bulletins 15 and 32 were consulted to develop the guidelines for recognizing a military historic property under criterion B and documenting its historic context. Research for the development of a historic context for Major General Smedley Butler was conducted at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), the NARA Military Reference Branch, the U.S. Marine

Corps Museum, the Alfred M. Gray Marine Corps Research Center at Quantico, the Marine Corps History Center, and at the Quantico Cultural Resource Office. A checklist was developed as a tool for military cultural resource managers when identifying and evaluating properties under criterion B.

Benefit:

This project provides assistance to the DoD in meeting its obligations under the National Historic Preservation Act as amended; Executive Order 13287, "Preserve America;" and DoD Instruction 4715.16, by providing a tool to enhance and improve historic property inventories, providing a link between historic property stewardship and the DoD mission of military preparedness, providing interpretive value to DoD stakeholders in consideration of these stewardship issues, promoting a greater appreciation for cultural properties by increasing awareness and involvement by the military and the public, and providing alternative management and mitigation strategies.

Accomplishments:

This project resulted in the summarization of the National Park Service's 11 guidelines for evaluating a property under criterion B and provides tools (e.g., checklist, list of resources, etc.) for the identification of properties on a military installation that may require evaluation under criterion B. The report also provides options for the management of properties listed under criterion B and gives five principles for mitigation strategies.

The project also examined the historic context for Major General Smedley Darlington Butler and the properties at Quantico Marine Corps Base that are associated with him as an example of a historic context for a criterion B property.

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