Background:

During the Cold War-era and earlier, the Department of Defense (DoD) constructed thousands of facilities to support its defense mission. Many are now National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-listed or NRHP-eligible. To comply with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), the DoD must manage these assets in light of the NHPA's requirements. As a result, installations have been compiling Cultural Resource Management (CRM) documentation of their resources for decades.

Objective:

CRM documents at DoD installations are in many cases only locally available, and no central means of accessing the information currently exists. The objective of this project was to collect DoD CRM documents from four Air Force bases and from the Legacy library, upload them to DENIX, and provide data-collection metrics and logistics info for future CRM data collection projects.

Summary of Approach:

This project is a follow-on to project 07-285, conducted by Statistical Research, Inc. (SRI) which identified DoD Cold War facilities and associated documentation at four U.S. Air Force bases and created an approach to compiling it, and to project 07-351, conducted by Van Citters: Historic Preservation (VCHP) which established a methodology for collecting, storing, and retrieving DoD CRM information. The current project, 09-351, was designed as a team project between SRI and VCHP to scan the Legacy library's hard-copy reports, add the Cold War documents collected during project 07-285 to a document organizer, and augment data collected during project 07-285 with pre-1945 facility-specific data from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base (AFB); Hill AFB; Kirtland AFB; and Vandenberg AFB. Using methods developed in the previous two Legacy projects, this project was designed to provide CRM data collection on DoD installations, populate the Cultural Resource Area on the Defense Environmental Network and Information Exchange (DENIX), and capture the labor and expense metrics of the process.

With Cold War and pre-Cold War cultural resources as its focus, the team used both hard copy scanners and existing digital files to gather CRM documentation on historic resources at selected DoD installations. Some data had been previously collected during pro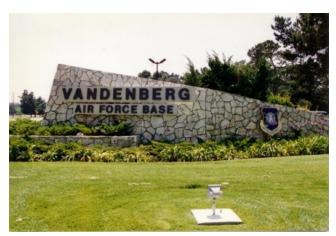ject 07-285 in digital form and was used to populate the database with its initial data. Data in hard-copy format was fed into a scanner into an external hard-drive for later uploading to DENIX. The project also collected expense and labor metrics on the logistics of the data collection techniques, including time, equipment, and personnel required, in order to provide guidance for future CRM data collection.

Benefit:

The project forms the basis for a DoD-wide CRM database that will make available DoD-wide a valuable fund of information on historic DoD facilities. The establishment of this standardized database and of standardized collection techniques will also make it possible for follow-on projects to collect more data from DoD sites.

Accomplishments:

The SRI and VCHP team acquired and uploaded some 108 CRM documents for eventual upload to DENIX. The project gathered pre-1945 facility-specific data to complement originally collected Cold War data, established a procedure for creating searchable electronic documents, provided electronic copies of important national, regional, and local contexts and other CRM documents for use by a DoD-wide audience, and provided logistical and expense information for future DoD-wide data collection and sharing.

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