

**a) Purpose.** The original Cultural Resource Management Plan, presented in MRO Pamphlet 1105-2-1 (11 June 1982), established "...guidance and procedures for the management of cultural resources at all Civil Works projects in the Omaha District." Several changes in laws and regulations have required a re-evaluation of the scope of the program. While most of the activities are still centered on the Civil Works projects within the district boundaries, the program also has impacts on the Military, Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste, and Work For Others programs. Therefore, it was necessary to expand our program purpose statement to read as follows:

*"To be effective stewards of cultural resources located on Federal lands owned and operated by the Omaha District Corps of Engineers, by proactively developing relationships with interested parties, identifying issues, and subsequently resolving those issues to the extent allowed by federal law, executive orders, regulations and related guidance, and budget constraints. To also provide support to our customers in their needs concerning cultural resource activities and compliance"*

The cultural resources program transcends internal division boundaries to effectively implement its purpose statement. The program is not carried by a few people, but implemented by all personal within the district. In accordance with acceptable business management processes the Planning, Programs and Project Management Division is responsible for the successful implementation of the program throughout the district. The District Commander and several Division Chiefs are full participants in the program.

**b) Overview.** Archeological properties are only a part of the cultural resources that the Corps of Engineers is required to manage and preserve. The term "cultural resources" refers to any building, site, district, structure, object, data, or other material significant in history, architecture, science, archeology, or culture. Cultural resources management refers to the management of these types of resources. The fields of expertise needed to manage cultural resources effectively include archeology, cultural anthropology, history, architecture, engineering, information and archive management, and museum curation and conservation.

The terms "cultural resources" and "historic properties" are sometimes used interchangeably, however, they have different meanings that are reflected in Department of Defense regulations. Historic properties are sites and districts that are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The term "cultural resources" includes historic properties and other property types.

Historic sites are properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is an inventory of historic properties important in our Nation's history, culture, architecture, archeology, and engineering. The National Register office in the National Park Service maintains the inventory. Properties eligible for the National Register must be at least 50 years old or possess unusual significance. Properties can be significant at national, state, or local levels and include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects. Only the "Keeper" of the National Register, acting through the

authority of the Secretary of the Interior, can actually list a property on the National Register.

The term “historic preservation” includes a broad range of activities as formally defined in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. These activities include “identification, evaluation, recordation, documentation, curation, acquisition, protection, management, rehabilitation, restoration, and education and training regarding the foregoing activities or any combination of the foregoing activities.” It is important to emphasize this definition as many federal agency employees and members of the public view historic preservation in a narrowly defined manner as the actual in-place preservation of a historic property. The intent of Congress is not to preserve every site listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and there are times when the public benefits of a federal project clearly outweigh the preservation of a specific historic property.

**c) Basic Cultural Resource Management.** There are seven basic program elements in a comprehensive federal resource management program. These basic program elements are: compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act; the proactive management of historic properties as required by Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act; the protection of archeological sites as required by the Archeological Resource Protection Act; the protection and repatriation of Native American human remains and various cultural items as required by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act; compliance with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act and Executive Order 13007 protecting and guaranteeing access to Native American sacred sites on federal lands; a public education program as required by Section 10(c) of the Archeological and Resources Protection Act; and the proper care and curation of artifacts associated with historic properties as required by Section 101 (a)(7) of the National Historic Preservation Act. Before these program elements are described it is useful to identify the primary federal and state agencies involved in cultural resource management.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation is an independent federal agency created by the National Historic Preservation Act. It advises the President and Congress on historic preservation matters, and it is responsible for writing regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. It also reviews federal agency historic preservation programs and policies. The Council’s 20 members include the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture and four heads of other federal agencies, a governor, a mayor, eight private individuals, a Native American representative, the Architect of the Capitol, the chairman of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the president of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers. The Council’s staff is composed of an executive director, historians, architects, archeologists, planners, lawyers, and administrative personnel.

In 1935 Congress designated the National Park Service as the primary historic preservation agency in the federal government. As directed by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service maintains the National Register of Historic Places, provides technical information and guidance to other federal agencies,

and establishes standards for historic preservation activities. It administers the Historic Preservation Fund grants-in-aid programs to the states and Indian tribes. It operates the National Historic Landmarks program, the Historic American Building Survey, the Historic American Engineering Record, and the Certified Local Governments program. It also reviews State Historic Preservation Programs.

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is an office in state government established by the National Historic Preservation Act. The Governor in each state appoints the State Historic Preservation Officer, although many state legislatures have passed laws designating whom the governor may appoint. The SHPO is responsible for administering a statewide historic preservation program. The program includes maintaining an inventory of historic properties (which includes some archeological sites) in the state, identifying and nominating historic properties to the National Register, and preparing and implementing a comprehensive statewide historic preservation plan. The SHPO also advises and assists federal, state, and local units of government in preservation matters and consults with federal agencies when federal undertakings affect historic properties. By law, the SHPO maintains a professional staff of at least one of each of the following: historian, architectural historian, archeologist, and grants administrator. More frequently, the SHPO has a larger staff that includes historic architects, prehistoric and historic archeologists, planners, and other preservation experts. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's website ([www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov)) maintains a state-by-state list of the current SHPO.

Indian tribes, Native Alaskan corporations, and Native Hawaiian groups have a keen interest in the preservation of archeological and historic properties relating to their cultures. This interest has been recognized in the National Historic Preservation Act in different ways. Section 101(d)(2) allows Indian tribes to establish their own historic preservation offices, and they can assume all or part of the State Historic Preservation Office's responsibilities on tribal lands. Section 101(d)(6)(A) states unequivocally that properties of religious and cultural value to Indian tribes can be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Also the Act requires federal agencies to consult with Indian tribes if their Section 106 undertakings will affect sites of religious or cultural importance to the tribe (Section 101(d)(6)(B)). A number of tribes have established tribal preservation programs and have taken over SHPO responsibilities for their tribal lands. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's website maintains a current list of the approved tribal programs.

The Corps of Engineers is required to have a cultural resource program. The Advisory Council, the National Park Service, and the State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices can provide technical assistance and advice, but it is the Corps responsibility to manage cultural resources on Corps-owned lands. Engineering Regulations 1105-2-100 and 1130-2-540 provide the basic guidance for the Corps civil programs.

**d) Authorities and Policies.** The cultural resources policy of the Omaha District is to preserve and protect significant cultural resources in a spirit of stewardship for the nation. As mentioned previously, inherent in this policy is the responsibility for locating,

identifying, and evaluating cultural resources for their eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places. Once these cultural resources have been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, it is our responsibility to preserve them in perpetuity or to mitigate them if they cannot be preserved. It is our goal to properly care for significant sites, stabilizing those sites threatened by erosion, mitigating those sites where stabilization is not an option, encouraging and enabling adaptive reuse of historic structures, and showcasing the historic and prehistoric sites on District lands, as appropriate. It is understood that laws and regulations are the primary elements that shape policy. Therefore Appendix C stipulates the laws, regulations and agreements that pertain to cultural resources. A brief synopsis of each the law or regulation is provided in the Appendix C. The laws and regulations are broken down into four sections; Public Law (including Uniform Standard Code and Code of Federal Regulation references), Executive Orders, Other Federal Guidance, and Corps of Engineers Regulations.

**e) Goals and Objectives.** The Omaha District annually develops goals and objectives to guide the activities and decision making for the upcoming fiscal year. Once these are set then there is a standard against which the organization can measure its success. Being able to meet the goals and objectives is critical to the District and it's ability to reach its strategic vision as "The world's premier public engineering organization responding to our nation's needs in peace and war." Currently, Headquarters has asked that our goals be focused on People, Process and Communication. Therefore the cultural resource program has developed it's goals around the those three areas.

Annually we review our long-range goals to make sure they are still relevant and in line with District and Division goals. Then based on that review we determine realistic objectives that will help us obtain our goals. Finally once the goals and objectives are set we determine specific actions that need to take place to achieve our objectives. Within the context of the five-year plan we set objectives and action plans that will help ultimately achieve the long-range goals. Appendix A contains the long-range goals and objectives for the cultural resources program. Specific action plans to accomplish each objective are also contained in Appendix A.